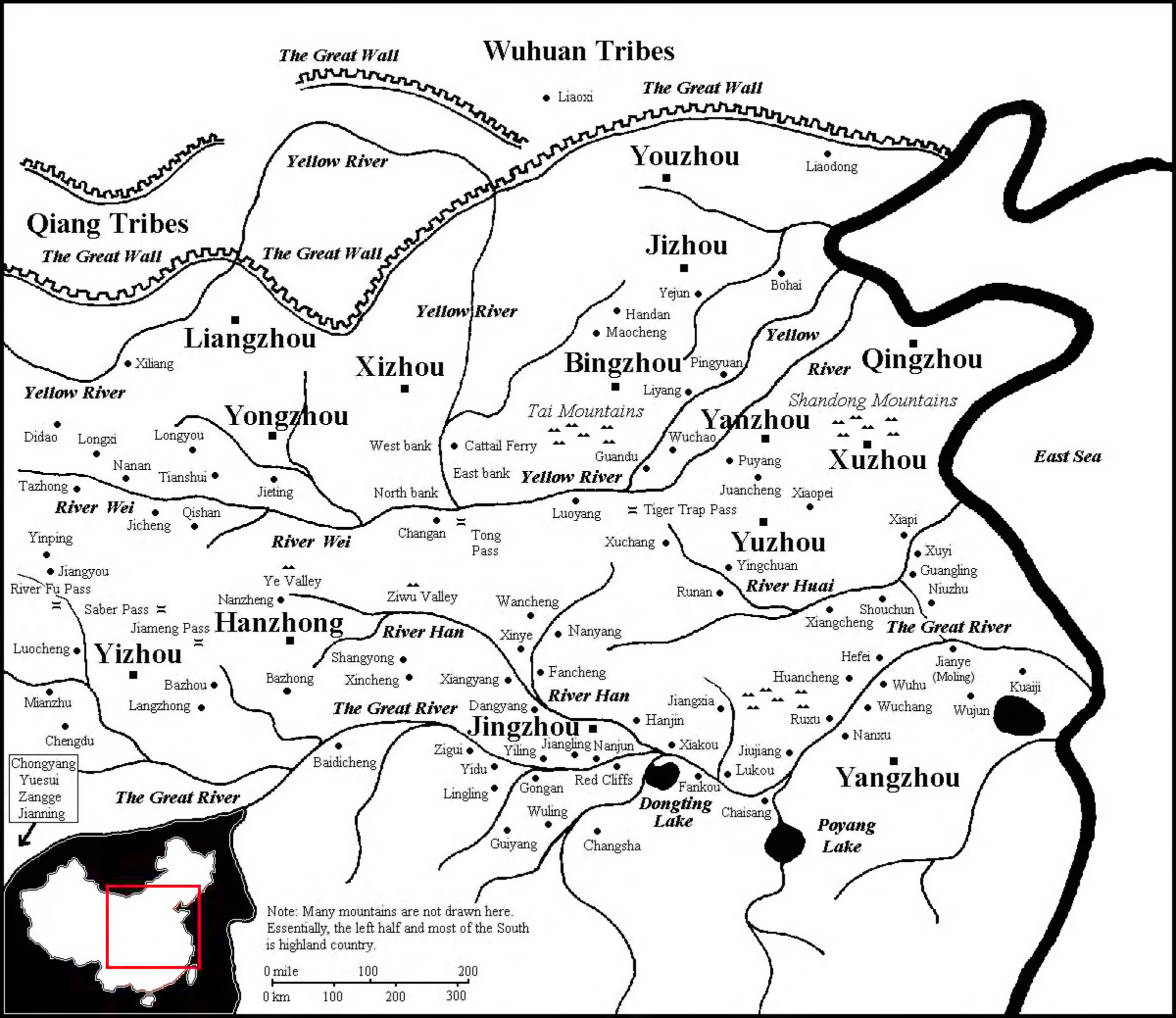
三国志 ⑧

呂布と曹操

横山光輝

潮漫画文庫 35


Wuhuan Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Liaoxi
Youzhou
Liaodong
Yellow River
Qiang Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Jizhou
Bohai
Yejun
Handan
Maocheng
Yellow River
Liangzhou
Xizhou
Bingzhou
Pingyuan
Yellow River
Qingzhou
Xiliang
Yellow River
Liyang
Shandong Mountains
Tai Mountains
Yongzhou
Yanzhou
Didao
Longxi
Longyou
West bank
Cattail Ferry
Wuchao
Guandu
Xuzhou
East Sea
Nanan
East bank
Yellow River
Puyang
Tianshui
Tazhong
Jieting
North bank
Juancheng
Xiaopei
River Wei
Qishan
Luoyang
Tiger Trap Pass
Jicheng
Changan
Tong Pass
Xiapi
Yuzhou
Yinping
River Wei
Xuchang
Xuyi
Jiangyou
Ye Valley
Yingchuan
Guangling
River Fu Pass
Ziwu Valley
Runan
River Huai
Niuzhu
Saber Pass
Nanzheng
Wancheng
Shouchun
Jiameng Pass
Hanzhong
River Han
Xinye
Nanyang
Xiangcheng
The Great River
Luocheng
Yizhou
Shangyong
Hefei
Jianye (Moling)
Fancheng
Huancheng
Bazhou
Bazhong
Xincheng
Xiangyang
Wuhu
Kuaiji
River Han
Jiangxia
Mianzhu
Langzhong
The Great River
Dangyang
Wuchang
Wujun
Ruxu
Hanjin
Jingzhou
Chengdu
Nanxu
Zigui
Yiling
Jiangling
Nanjun
Xiakou
Jiujiang
Baidicheng
Yidu
Lukou
Yangzhou
Chongyang
Yuesui
Zangge
Jianning
Red Cliffs
Fankou
Gongan
Lingling
Dongting Lake
Chaisang
Wuling
Poyang Lake
Guiyang
Changsha
The Great River
Note: Many mountains are not drawn here.
Essentially, the left half and most of the South
is highland country.
0 mile 100 200
0 km 100 200 300

CHARACTERS OF SANGOKUSHI

PART-1: CHARACTERS TO KEEP IN MIND

CAO CAO MENGDE:
THE AMBITIOUS AND MACHIAVELLIAN HERO OF SANGOKUSHI. IN VOLUME 4, HE BECAME AN OUTLAW AFTER FAILING TO ASSASSINATE DONG ZHUO. HE THEN FORGED AN IMPERIAL EDICT TO ASSEMBLE AN ALLIANCE TO BRING DOWN DONG ZHUO. AS OF VOLUME 8, HE RETURNED BACK HOME TO CHENLIU AFTER HAVING HIS FORCES ALMOST ENTIRELY ANNHILATED BY LI RU.

CONSORT HE:
HE JIN'S YOUNGER SISTER. ORIGINALLY A PEASANT, HER BEAUTY WAS NOTICED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS WHO THEN PRESENTED HER TO EMPEROR LING. SHE BECAME EMPEROR LING'S FAVOURITE CONSORT AND GAVE BIRTH TO PRINCE LIU BIAN. SHE AND HER SON WERE REMOVED FROM POWER BY DONG ZHUO AND LATER KILLED BY LI RU.

DIAO CHAN:
SHE IS WANG YUN'S HANDMAID BUT RAISED MORE OF AS HIS DAUGHTER. IN VOLUME 7, SHE AND WANG YUN PLOTS TO TURN LU BU AGAINST DONG ZHUO.

DONG ZHUO:
THE GOVERNOR OF LIANGZHOU WHO SEIZED CONTROL OF LUOYANG AND SEATED HIMSELF AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN. HE IS DEPICTED AS SADISTIC, CORRUPT, AND A RUTHLESS TYRANT.

GUAN YU YUNCHANG:
SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER TO LIU BEI AND SWORN OLDER BROTHER TO ZHANG FEI. HE IS AS FIERCE AS ZHANG FEI BUT IS MORE RESTRAINED AND CALM IN DEMEANOR.

GONGSUN ZAN:
GOVERNOR OF BEIPING WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ALLIANCE TO BRING DOWN DONG ZHUO. HE WAGED WAR AGAINST YUAN SHAO AFTER THE LATTER TRICKED HIM AND KILLED HIS YOUNGER BROTHER.

HE JIN:
OLDER BROTHER OF CONSORT HE. ORIGINALLY A SIMPLE BUTCHER, HE BECAME A GENERAL WHEN HIS YOUNGER SISTER BECAME EMPEROR LING'S CONSORT. HE ATTEMPTS TO KILL THE TEN ATTENDANTS BUT IS DISSUADED BY HIS YOUNGER SISTER. HE IS LATER ASSASSINATED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS.

LI RU:
DONG ZHUO'S SHREWD AND FAITHFUL ADVISOR. HE FREQUENTLY GIVES DONG ZHUO USEFUL ADVICE AND WARNS HIM NOT TO LET DIAO CHAN GET IN THE WAY BETWEEN HIM AND LU BU.

LIU BEI XUANDE:
THE CENTRAL CHARACTER OF SANGOKUSHI. HE IS A KIND AND VIRTUOUS MAN SAID TO BE THE DESCENDANT OF EMPEROR JING OF HAN. HE HAS SWORN AN OATH OF BROTHERHOOD WITH GUAN YU AND ZHANG FEI. AS OF VOLUME 8, HE HAS BECOME THE GOVERNOR OF PINGYUAN.

LIU BIAO:
THE GOVERNOR OF JINGZHOU WHO, ALONG WITH YUAN SHAO, TRIED TO KILL SUN JIAN TO RECOVER THE STOLEN IMPERIAL SEAL.

LU BU FENGXIAN:
DING YUAN'S ADOPTED SON WHO BETRAYED HIS FOSTER-FATHER AND BECAME DONG ZHUO'S RETAINER OUT OF HIS DESIRE FOR FAME AND GLORY. HE AND HIS HORSE, THE RED HARE, ARE SAID TO BE THE STRONGEST WARRIOR AND FASTEST HORSE IN THE LAND.

SUN JIAN WENTAI:
BORN IN WU COMMANDERY, HE WAS THE GOVERNOR OF CHANGSHA. HE PARTICIPATED IN THE ALLIANCE TO BRING DOWN DONG ZHUO IN VOLUME 5. WHEN HE FOUND THE IMPERIAL SEAL, HE KEPT IT FOR HIMSELF, CAUSING HIS ALLIES YUAN SHAO AND LIU BIAO TO TURN ON HIM. IN VOLUME 7, HE TRIED TO EXACT HIS REVENGE BY ATTACKING LIU BIAO BUT WAS KILLED IN BATTLE.

SUN CE BOFU:
ELDEST SON OF SUN JIAN.

SUN QUAN ZHONGMOU:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF SUN CE.

TEN ATTENDANTS:
A CORRUPT GROUP OF 10 EUNUCHS WHO WERE THE HIGHEST RANKING MINISTERS OF THE IMPERIAL COURT. THEY SUCCEEDED IN ASSASSINATING GENERAL HE JIN BUT WERE LATER KILLED BY HE JIN'S ARMY LED BY YUAN SHAO.

WANG YUN:
AN OLD MAN WHO IS THE MINISTER OF THE MASSES, ONE OF THE 3 HIGHEST RANKING POSTS IN HAN. HE ENTRUSTS CAO CAO WITH THE TASK OF ASSASSINATING DONG ZHUO. LATER IN VOLUME 7, HE PLOTS DONG ZHUO'S DOWNFALL BY USING HIS HANDMAID, DIAO CHAN.

WEN CHOU:
HE AND YANG LIANG ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS.

YAN LIANG:
HE AND WEN CHOU ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS.

YUAN SHAO:
ORIGINALLY AN ADVISOR TO HE JIN, HE LEFT THE CAPITAL AND BECAME THE GOVERNOR OF BOHAI COMMANDERY WHEN DONG ZHUO CAME TO RULE OVER LUOYANG. HE HEADED THE ALLIANCE TO BRING DOWN DONG ZHUO AND LATER TRIED TO KILL HIS ALLY SUN JIAN IN ORDER TO RECOVER THE STOLEN IMPERIAL SEAL.

YUAN SHU:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF YUAN SHAO AND THE GOVERNOR OF NANYANG. HE ASKS SUN JIAN TO HELP HIM ATTACK LIU BIAO AND HIS OLDER BROTHER IN VOLUME 7.

ZHANG FEI YIDE:
A FIERCE, SHORT-TEMPERED WARRIOR WHO IS THE SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER OF LIU BEI AND GUAN YU.

ZHAO YUN ZILONG:
A FORMER RETAINER OF YUAN SHAO WHO HE IS NOW UNDER GONGSUN ZAN'S SERVICE. HE DISLIKES BOTH YUAN SHAO AND GONGSUN ZAN AND WISHES TO SERVE LIU BEI.

-MORE TO BE ADDED IN FUTURE VOLUMES-

CHARACTERS OF SANGOKUSHI

PART-2: MINOR CHARACTERS

CAO HONG:
A GENERAL SERVING UNDER CAO CAO. HE SAVED CAO CAO FROM CERTAIN DEATH IN VOLUME 6.

CAO SONG:
CAO CAO'S FATHER AND A FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL.

CHENG GONG:
A CITY GUARD CAPTAIN WHO ARRESTED CAO CAO, ONLY TO FREE AND ESCAPE WITH CAO CAO AFTER SYMPATHIZING WITH HIS STORY. HE REGRETS HIS DECISION AFTER REALIZING CAO CAO'S CHARACTER.
*IN THE ORIGINAL NOVEL, HE LEAVES DEFECTS TO LU BU.

DING YUAN:
GOVERNOR OF BINGZHOU AND LU BU'S FOSTER-FATHER. HE OBJECTED TO DONG ZHUO'S SCHEME TO PLACE PRINCE CHENLIU AS THE EMPEROR OF HAN. HE WAS KILLED BY LU BU.

LIU XIE (EMPEROR XIAN OF HAN):
ALSO KNOWN AS THE PRINCE OF CHENLIU, HE BECAME THE EMPEROR OF HAN WHEN DONG ZHUO FORCIBLY DETHRONED HIS HALF-BROTHER LIU BIAN.

LIU BIAN:
THE SON OF CONSORT AND WAS BRIEFLY THE EMPEROR OF HAN AFTER EMPEROR LING'S DEATH. HE WAS DEPOSED BY DONG ZHUO AND LATER KILLED ALONG WITH HIS MOTHER BY LI RU.

HUA XIONG:
ONE OF DONG ZHUO'S GENERALS. HE DEFEATED SUN JIAN'S ARMY BUT WAS LATER KILLED BY GUAN YU IN VOLUME 5.

ZHANG JIAO:
LEADER OF THE YELLOW TURBAN REBELLION. HE WAS SAID TO HAVE DIED DUE TO ILLNESS IN VOLUME 3.

ZHANG BAO:
ZHANG JIAO'S YOUNGER BROTHER AND THE YELLOW TURBAN'S GENERAL OF THE LAND. HE WAS KILLED BY LIU BEI IN VOLUME 2.

LADY FUYOU:
FICTIONAL CHARACTER CREATED BY MITSUTERU YOKOYAMA AND LIU BEI'S FIRST LOVE. ZHANG FEI FORMERLY SERVED HER FAMILY, WHO WERE ALL KILLED BY THE YELLOW TURBAN REBELS.

SANGOKUSHI

8

LU BU AND CAO CAO

CAO CAO MENGDE

YOKOYAMA MITSUTERU

SANGOKUSHI (ROMANCE OF THE THREE KINGDOMS)

三国志（さんごくし）

VOLUME 08
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〔月刊『希望の友』掲載〕

PLOT TO ASSASSINATE DONG ZHUO

WHAT!? THE CHANCELLOR SAID HE WOULD GIVE DIAO CHAN TO ME!?
WOULD I COME ALL THE WAY HERE JUST TO TELL A CRUEL JOKE?
ARE YOU REALLY REALLY TELLING ME THE TRUTH!?
PLEASE TELL THE CHANCELLOR THAT I COULD NOT BE MORE INDEBTED.
I SHOULD NEVER HAVE DOUBTED THE CHANCELLOR...

I TOO, FEEL MUCH MORE RELIEVED NOW.

YES, I SHALL PROTECT HIM WITH MY LIFE.

I HOPE YOU CONTINUE TO SERVE OUR CHANCELLOR WELL.

HAHA, THIS IS TRULY BLISS!

WHAT JOYOUS NEWS THIS IS, GENERAL.

YES... I DO NOT WISH TO BUT LU BU CAN BE VERY OBSTINATE...

WHAT? SIR IS GIVING ME AWAY TO GENERAL LU BU?

NO, OF COURSE NOT.

HAS THE CHANCELLOR ALREADY GROWN WEARY OF ME?

N-NO, THAT'S ...

SO THEN LU BU IS MUCH MORE IMPORTANT TO SIR THAN THIS LOWLY DIAO CHAN?

I CANNOT BEAR THIS, SIR!

I UNDERSTAND. I MAY HAVE BEEN A LITTLE HASTY IN DECIDING TO GIVE YOU AWAY.

I WOULD RATHER DIE THAN TO BE GIVEN AWAY TO SUCH A VIOLENT BRUTE!

W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MY DIAO CHAN!?

CHANCE-LLOR...!

DO NOT WORRY MY LOVE, I SHALL NEVER GIVE YOU AWAY.

BUT AFTER THINKING IT OVER, I'VE DECIDED TO KEEP HER WITH ME.

I DID INDEED PROMISE TO GIVE DIAO CHAN TO LU BU BACK THEN...
WHAT!? SO THEN THE PROMISE HAS BEEN CALLED OFF...?

.....

LU BU'S LORD IS NO ONE BUT I!

BUT LU BU WILL...

THE FOOD PREPARED SPECIALLY FOR THE WEDDING CEREMONY WILL BECOME COLD AT THIS RATE...

HAS DIAO CHAN STILL NOT ARRIVED?

I WONDER WHAT IS TAKING HER SO LONG...?

AH, GOOD.

GENERAL, LI RU HAS ARRIVED.

HMM?

THAT... THAT IS...

WHY ISN'T DIAO CHAN WITH YOU?

WHAT!

YOU MEAN HE WON'T GIVE DIAO CHAN TO ME?

THE CHANCELLOR... HAS DECIDED TO GO BACK ON HIS PROMISE...

WHERE IS DIAO CHAN?

THE CHAN-CELLOR SAYS HE WOULD GIVE ANYTHING BUT HER...

B-BUT THAT'S ...

LI RU! LOOK AT THIS!

I PREPARED ALL THIS, BELIEVING YOUR WORDS!

I'M... SORRY...

JUST WHAT COULD EVER REPLACE DIAO CHAN!?

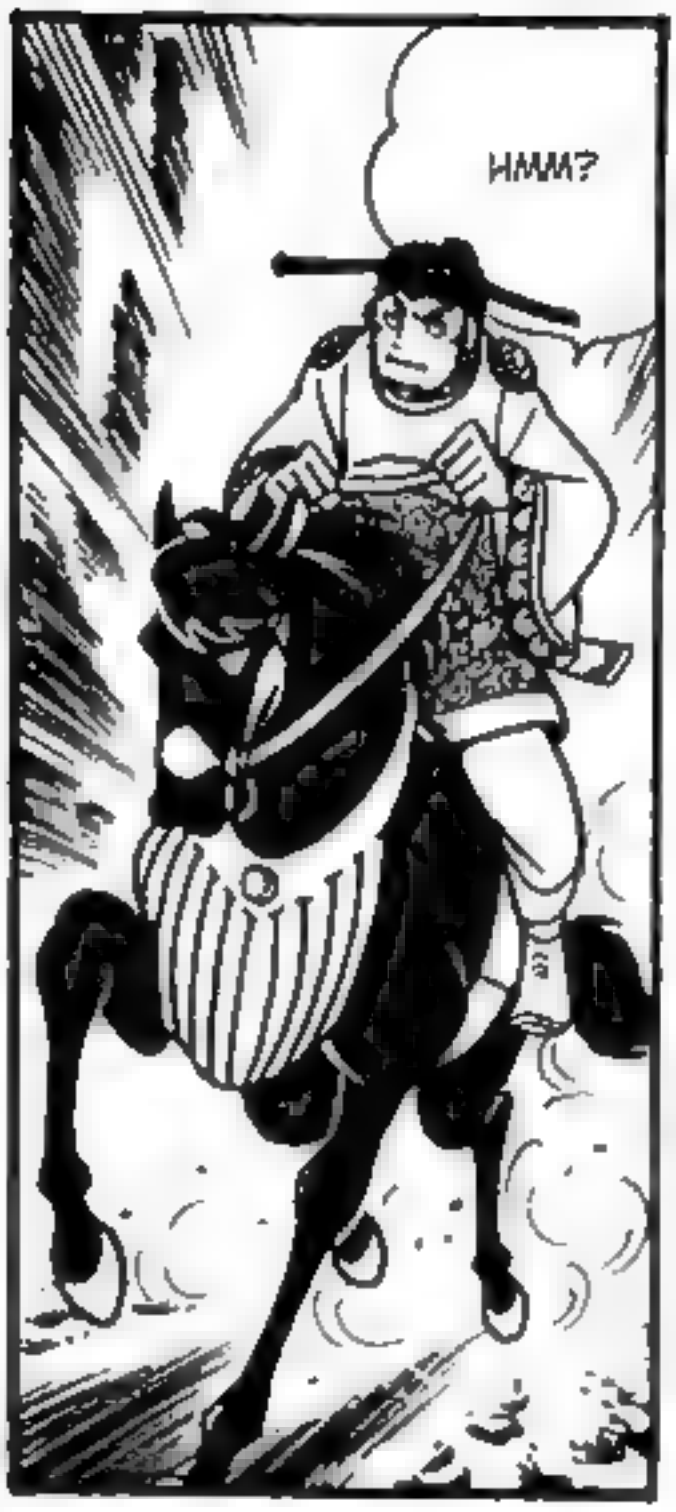
DAMN IT!

I WAS A FOOL TO HAVE BELIEVED SUCH A PROMISE IN THE FIRST PLACE!!!

I HAVE BEEN HUMILIATED AND DISGRACED IN FRONT OF MY SUBORDINATES, LI RU!

FASTER! FASTER, MY RED HARE! MAKE ME FORGET THIS PAIN IN MY HEART!

DIAO CHAN!


HMM?

GOOD DAY TO YOU, GENERAL.

MINISTER WANG YUN?

AH, DID THE GENERAL NOT KNOW?
IT'S RARE TO SEE SIR OUT HERE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS. IS THERE SOME SPECIAL REASON...?

I HAPPEN TO HAVE ANOTHER HOME HERE.

PREPARE THE TABLES.

PLEASE, I INSIST YOU STOP BY.

BY YOUR EXPRESSION, IT SEEMS THAT SOMETHING IS TROUBLING THE GENERAL.

I HAVE BECOME THE LAUGHING-STOCK OF THIS WORLD.

IS THAT HOW I APPEAR ...?

I SEE... SO THE CHANCELLOR HAS TAKEN DIAO CHAN FOR HERSELF...?

WHAT HAPPENED WAS...

I ORIGINALLY SENT MY DAUGHTER AWAY WITH MY BEST INTENTIONS OF PRESENTING HER TO YOU.

WHAT? WHY DOES SIR BEG FOR FORGI-VENESS?

PLEASE FORGIVE ME, GENERAL.

AND THE GENERAL HAS BECOME THE LAUGHINGSTOCK OF THE WORLD SINCE HIS WOMAN HAS BEEN STOLEN...

BUT SHE HAS NOW BECOME SULLIED BY THE CHANCELLOR'S HANDS...

NO, SIR. THE ONE AT FAULT HERE IS THE CHANCELLOR.

IT IS ALL MY FAULT THAT THE GENERAL HAS BEEN DISGRACED...

EVEN IF IT MEANS I HAVE TO KILL HIM, I SHALL CLEAR MY HONOUR.

BUT I SHALL NOT JUST STAND BY AND BE SHAMED...!

.....

I DO NOT CARE!

GENERAL! W-WHAT IF THE CHANCELLOR WERE TO HEAR SUCH TALK...!?

AS EXPECTED OF THE GENERAL, YOU TRULY ARE A HERO OF OUR TIMES.

BUT IF THE GENERAL WERE TO SUCCEED IN HIS TASK,

THE NAME LU BU WOULD GO FOREVER DOWN IN HISTORY AS A VIRTUOUS HERO.

I COULD NOT EVEN DARE TO SAY SUCH THINGS.

WHY OF COURSE. THE EMPEROR AND THE PEOPLE ARE SUFFERING UNDER THE CHANCELLOR'S TYRANNY.

GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS A HERO...?

A PERSON WHO SAVES THE EMPEROR AND THE PEOPLE... IF THAT IS NOT A HERO, THEN WHO IS?

IS THE GENERAL TALKING IN EARNEST ...?

I DO NOT FEAR DONG ZHUO. I AM CONFIDENT THAT I COULD ACCOMPLISH IT!

IF THE GENERAL TRULY FEELS THAT WAY, THAN I SHALL GLADLY HELP OUT AS WELL.

OF COURSE. LET THIS BE A PROOF OF MY WORDS.

IT IS FINALLY TIME TO HAVE LU BU KILL DONG ZHUO.

GOOD...

BUT JUST HOW TO KILL DONG ZHUO...?

DIAO CHAN'S EFFORTS ARE FINALLY BEARING FRUIT...

IT WOULD BE TROUBLESOME IF WE TRIED ATTACKING MEIWO AND ACCIDENTALLY LET DONG ZHUO ESCAPE.

AND DONG ZHUO WOULD SURELY LEAP AT THE CHANCE TO CLAIM THE THRONE!

IT IS FORBIDDEN TO BRING ALONG MANY BODYGUARDS INTO THE IMPERIAL PALACE SO IT WOULD BE IDEAL.

HOW ABOUT IF WE CALL DONG ZHUO OUT TO THE IMPERIAL PALACE ON THE PRETENSE THAT THE EMPEROR WISHES TO HAND OVER THE THRONE?

WHAT!?

LET US CARRY OUT THIS PLAN THEN.

THAT SOUNDS GOOD.

I SHALL GO SEND A MESSENGER TO DONG ZHUO.

YES, CHANCELLOR. THE EMPEROR IS VERY ILL AT THE MOMENT AND WISHES TO HAND OVER THE THRONE TO A TRUSTWORTHY SUBJECT BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE...

WHAT? THE EMPEROR WISHES TO HAND OVER THE THRONE TO ME?

THE OTHER MINISTERS ALL APPROVE OF THE EMPEROR'S DECISION.

AND WHAT DO THE OTHER MINISTERS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THIS?

TELL THE EMPEROR THAT I SHALL IMMEDIATELY GO TO THE IMPERIAL PALACE.

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

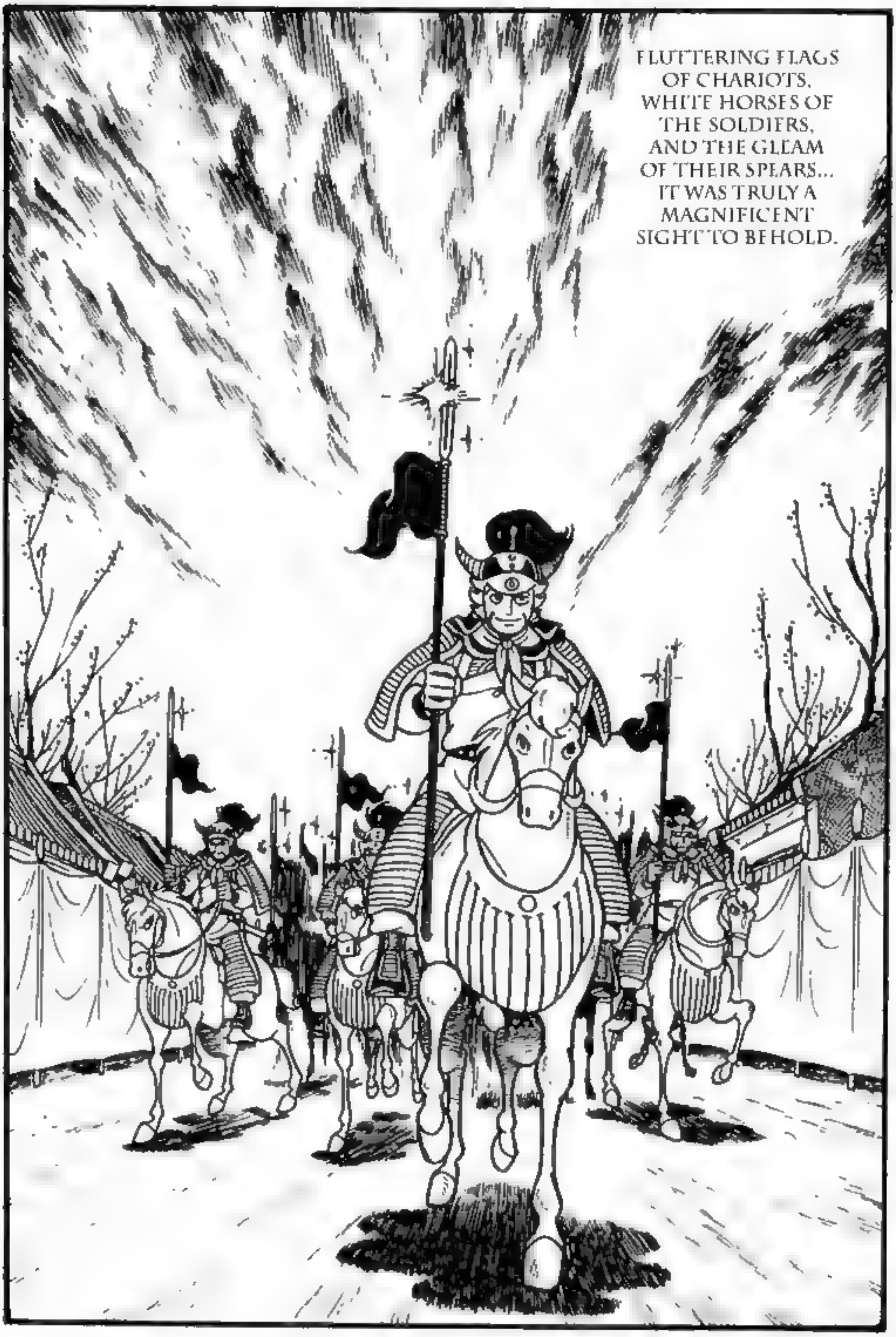
IS THAT SO? WELL, THANK YOU FOR BRINGING ME THE GOOD NEWS.

YES, SIR.

CONGRATULATIONS, SIR.

HAHA. LI RU, DID YOU HEAR? THE THRONE HAS COME TO MY HANDS SOONER THAN I EXPECTED.

AND SO DONG ZHUO TRIUMPHANTLY MARCHED FROM MEIWO TO THE IMPERIAL PALACE, PROTECTED BY THOUSANDS OF HIS SOLDIERS


FLUTTERING FLAGS OF CHARIOTS, WHITE HORSES OF THE SOLDIERS, AND THE GLEAM OF THEIR SPEARS... IT WAS TRULY A MAGNIFICENT SIGHT TO BEHOLD.

ガラ ガラ

WHAT IS IT!?

AGH!

IT'S BECAUSE THOSE FILTHY PEASANTS DIDN'T PROPERLY CLEAN THE STREETS!

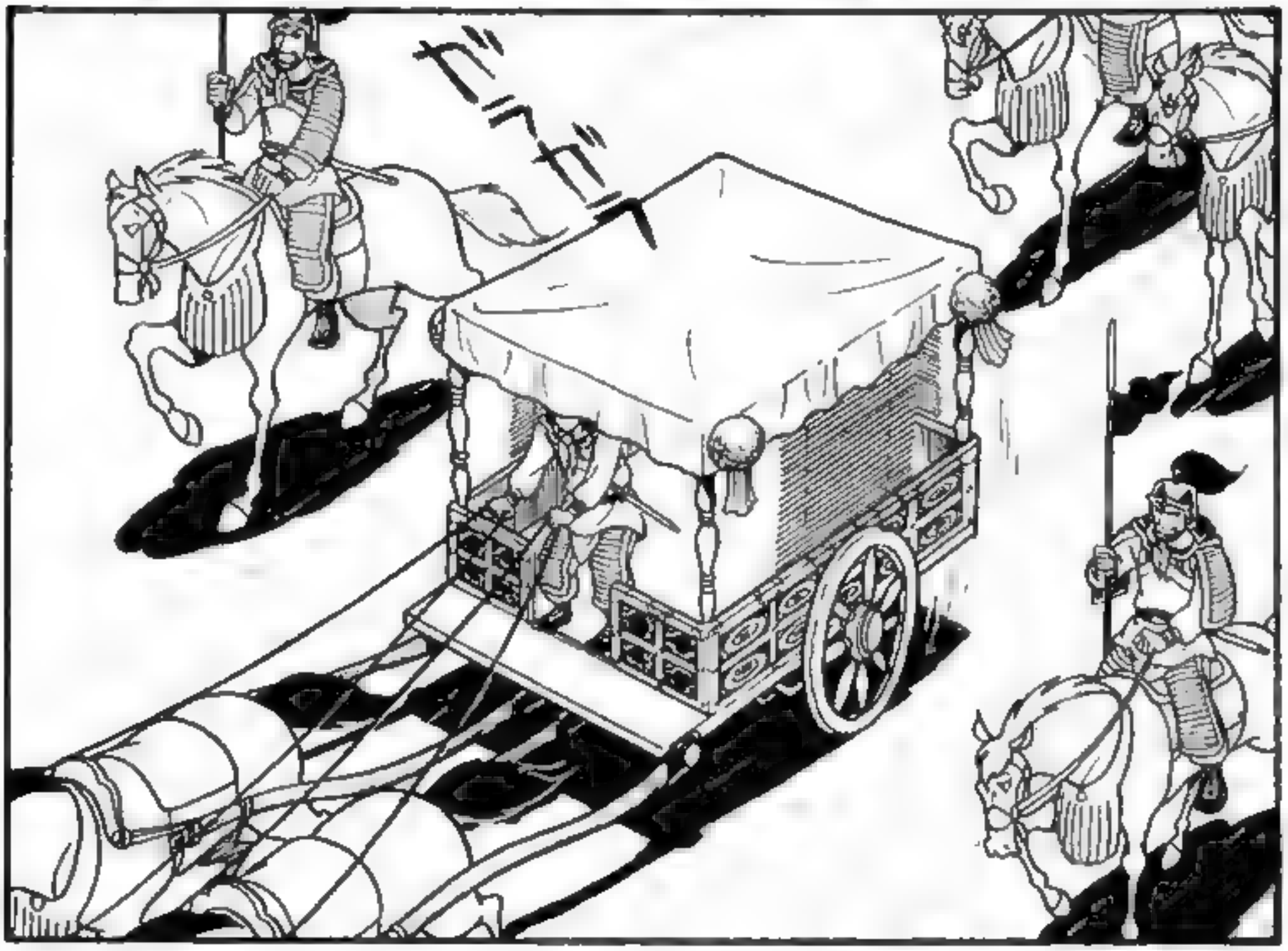
I SHALL CUT OFF THE VILLAGE CHIEF'S HEAD FOR THIS!

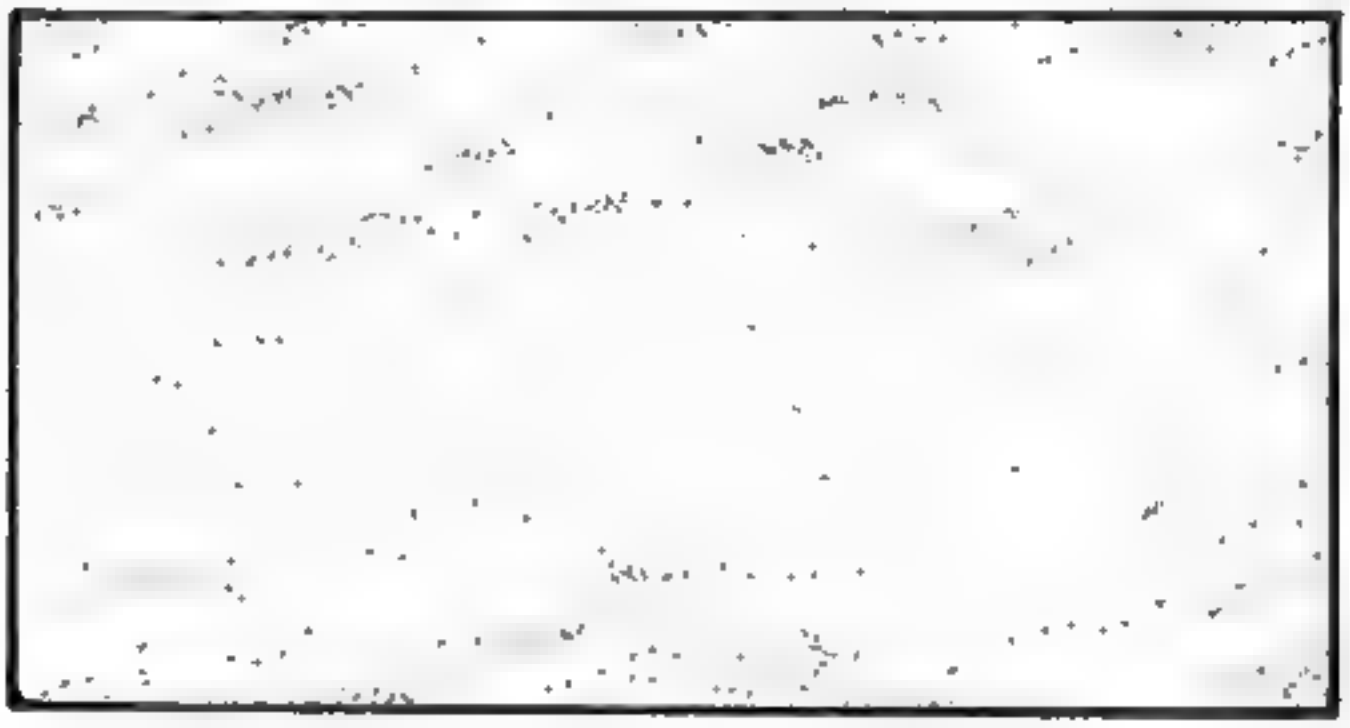
IT SEEMS THAT ONE OF THE WHEELS HAS BROKEN, CHANCELLOR.

YES.

IN THE MEANWHILE, I RECOMMEND SIR TO SWITCH CARRIAGES.

HMPH, RUINING THE MOOD LIKE THAT...!





AH!

IT'S A LITTLE OMINOUS . .

A THICK FOG...

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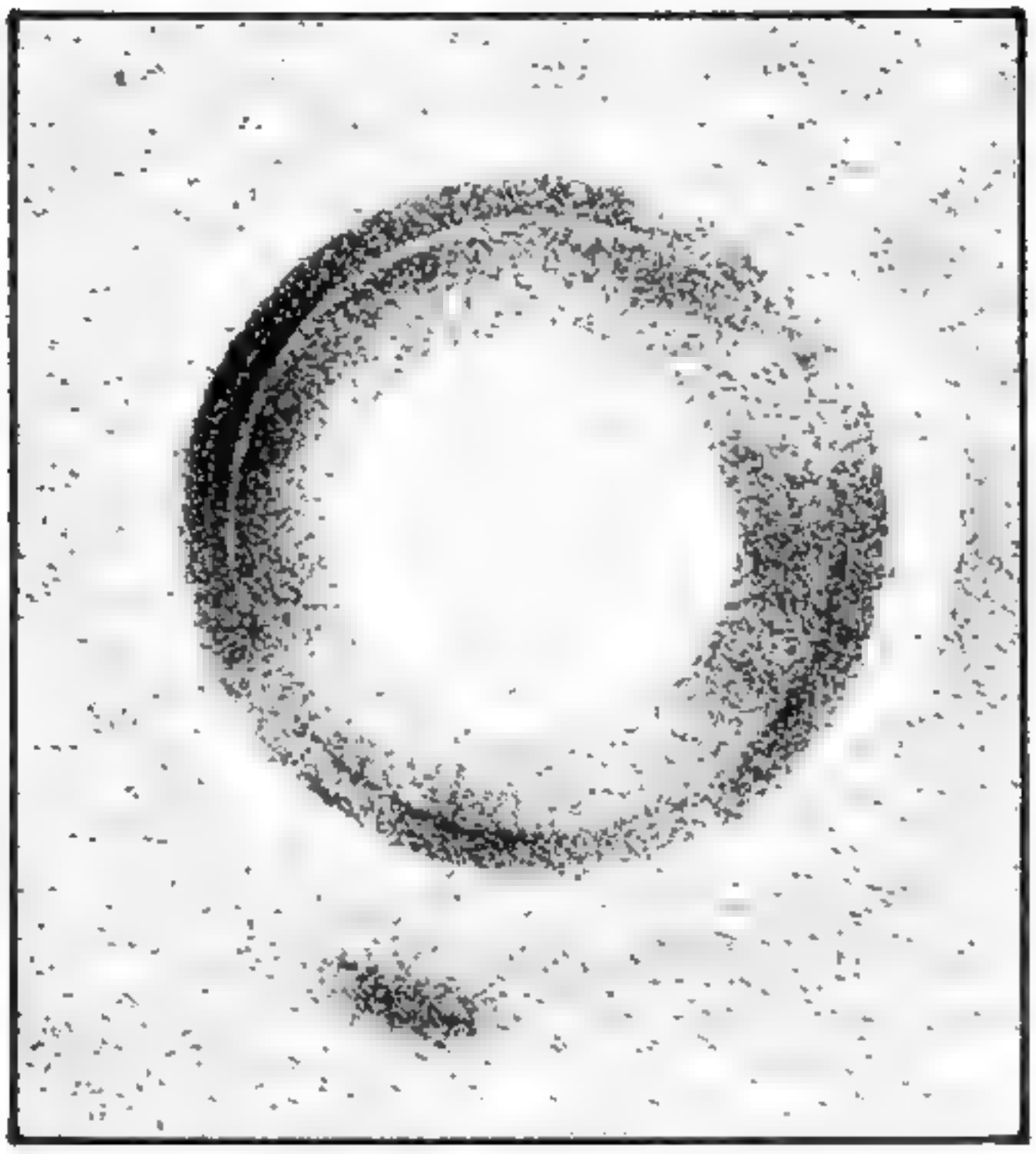
OMINOUS? JUST WHAT IS SO OMINOUS ABOUT ME CLAIMING THE THRONE?

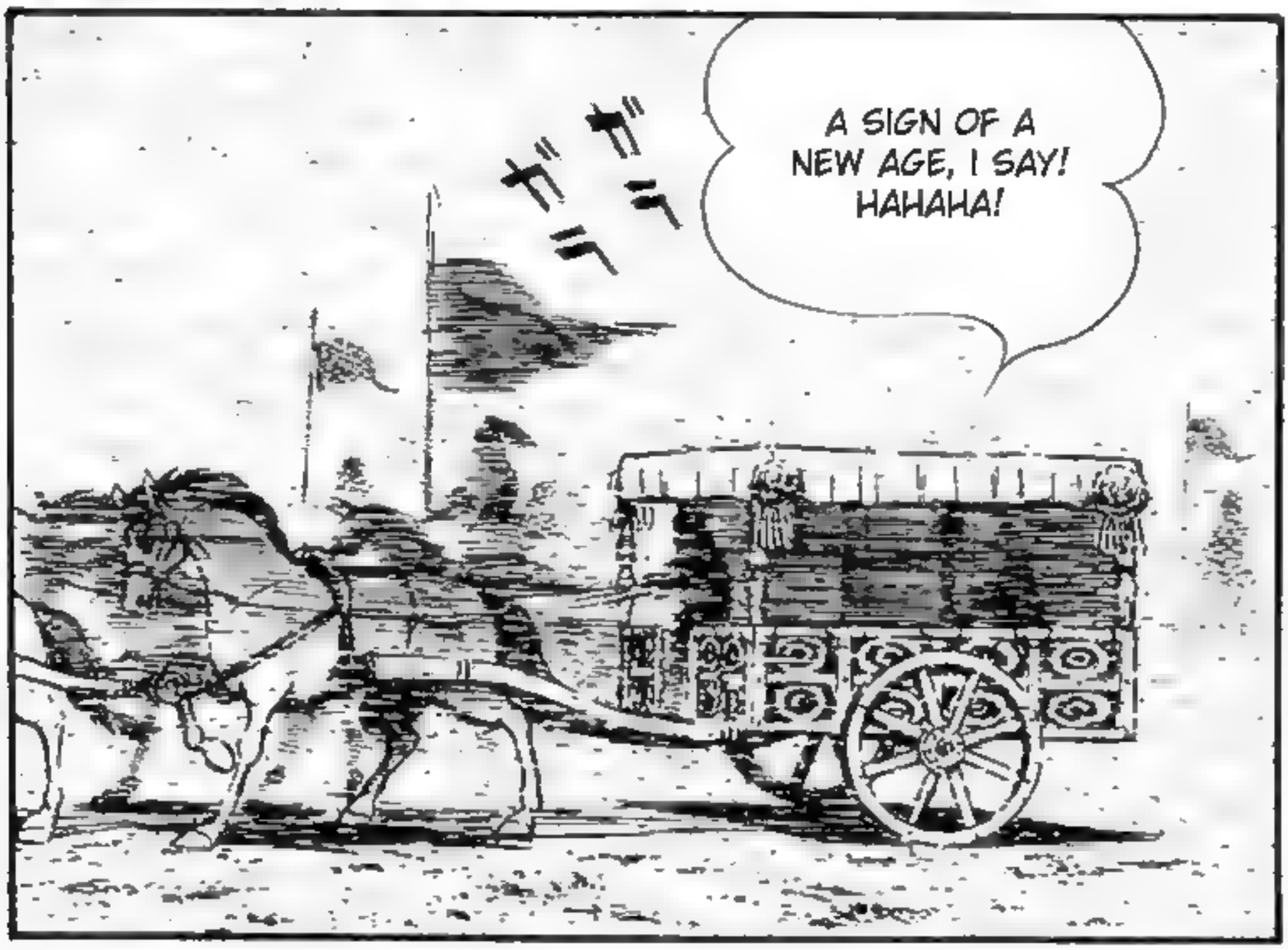
?

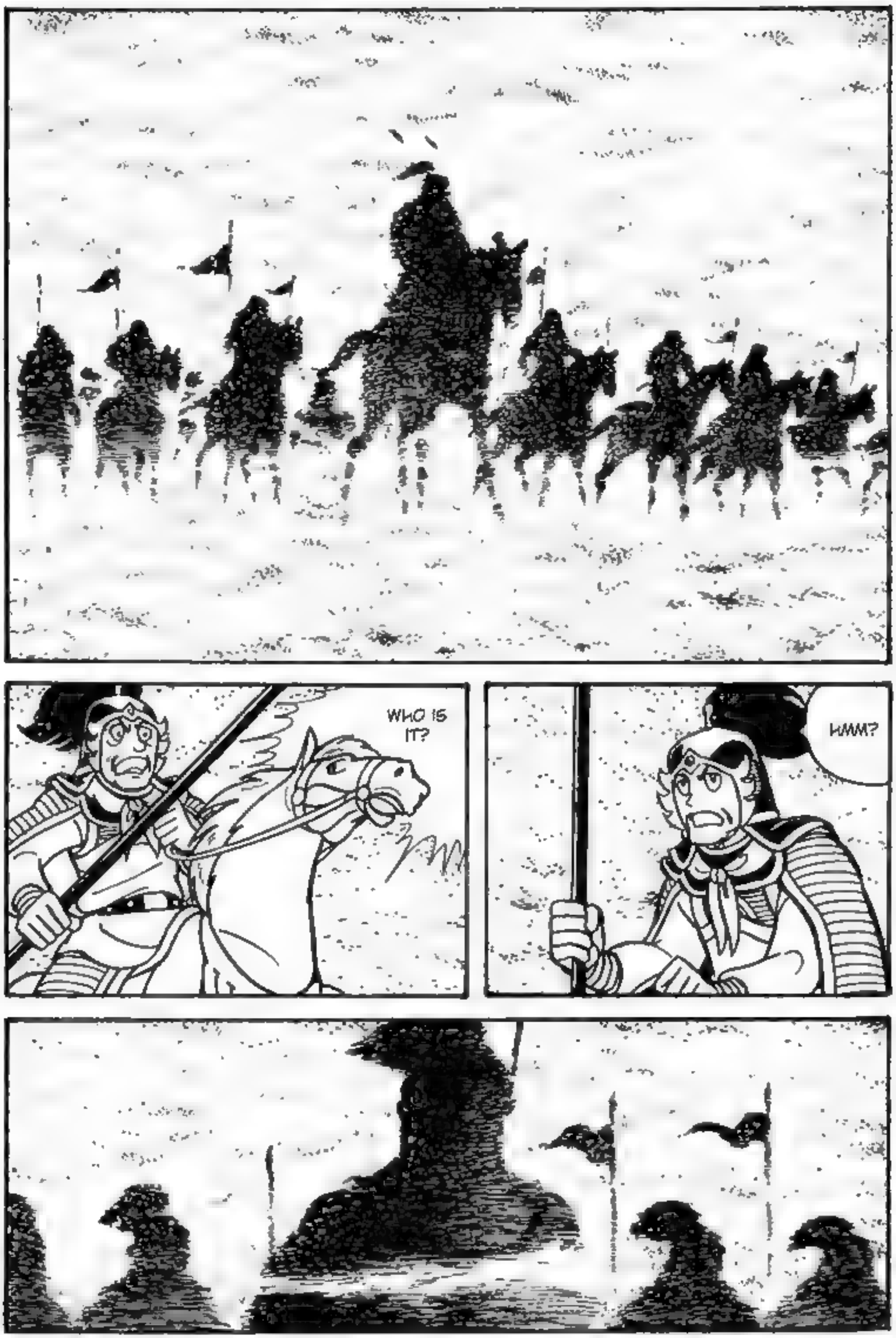
LOOK ABOVE AT THE SKY.

AH, IT'S A RAINBOW!

WHAT BETTER SIGN FOR MY ASCENSION TO THE THRONE THAN A RAINBOW?




A SIGN OF A NEW AGE, I SAY! HAHAHA!


WHO IS IT?
HMM?

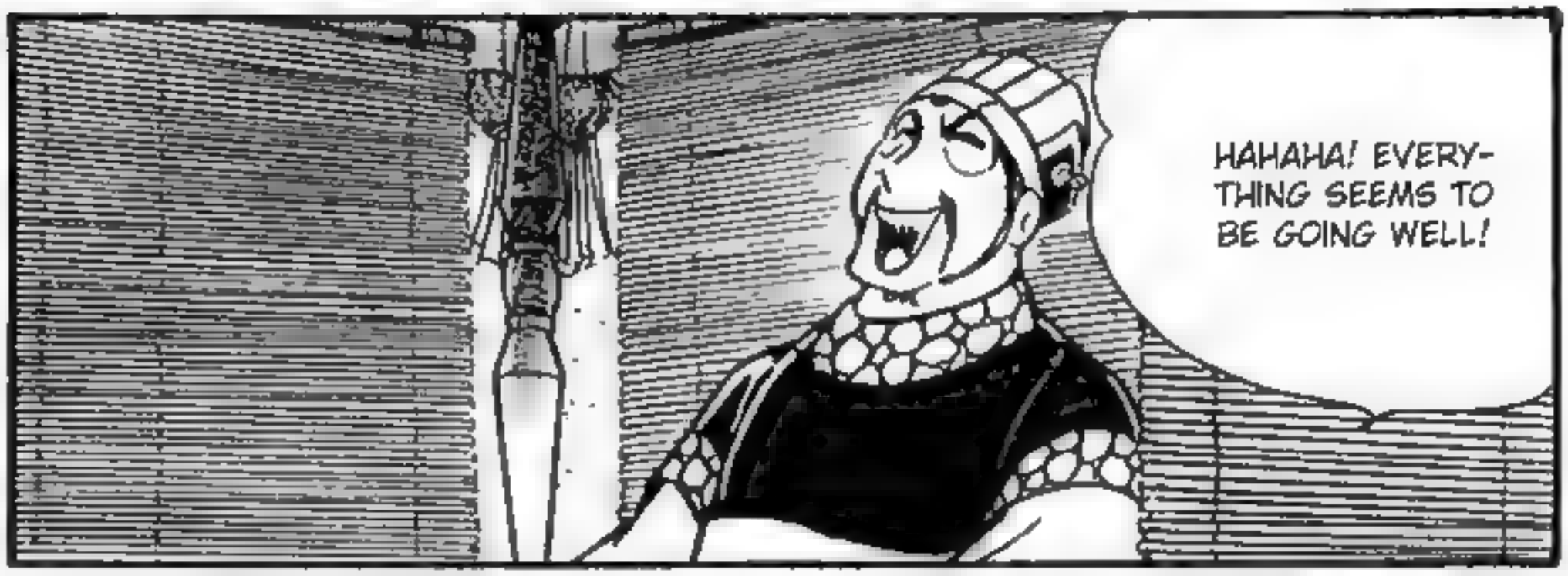
AHH, GENERAL LU BU!

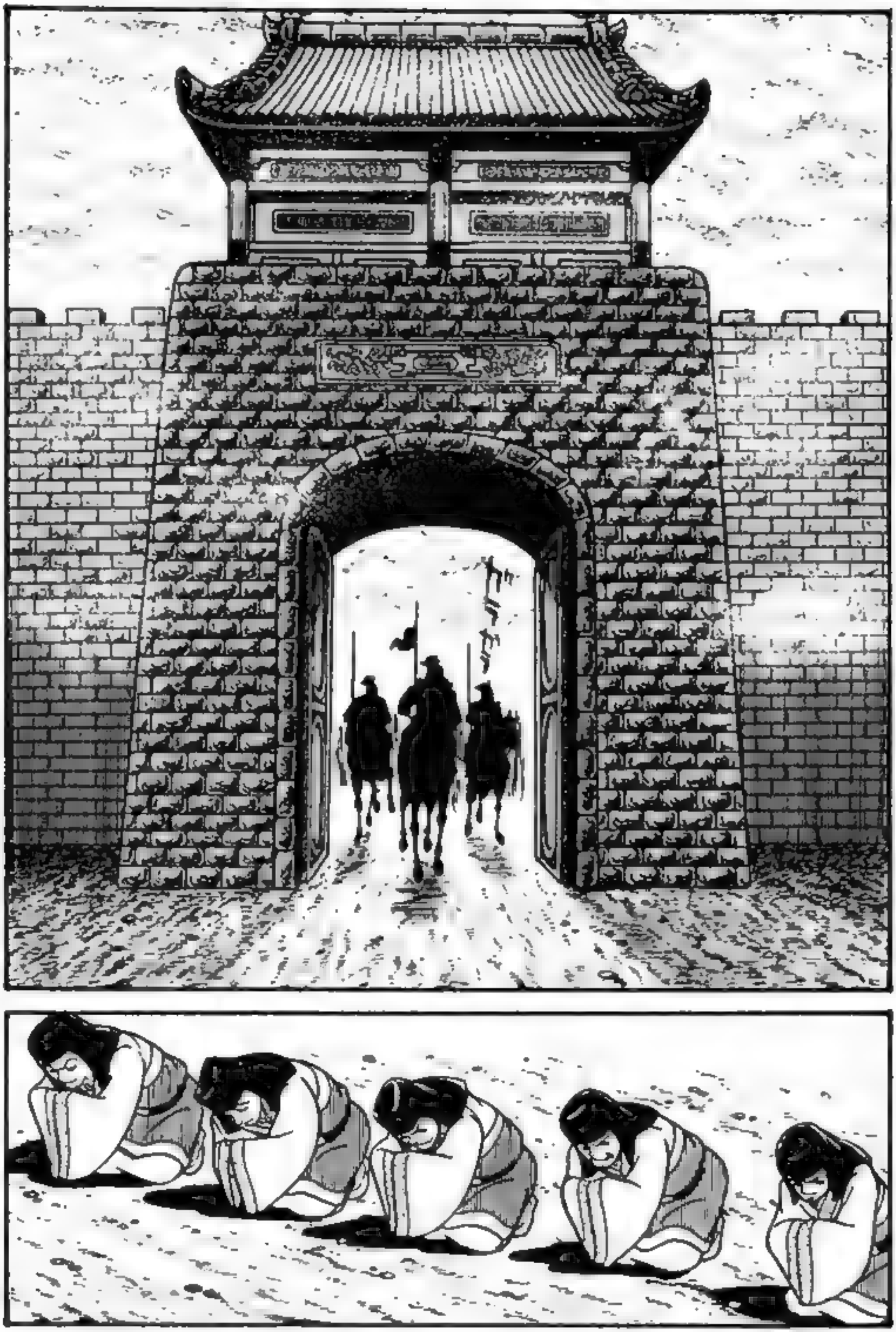
LU BU!? I'M SURE YOU TOO, ARE OVERJOYED AT THIS TURN OF EVENTS.

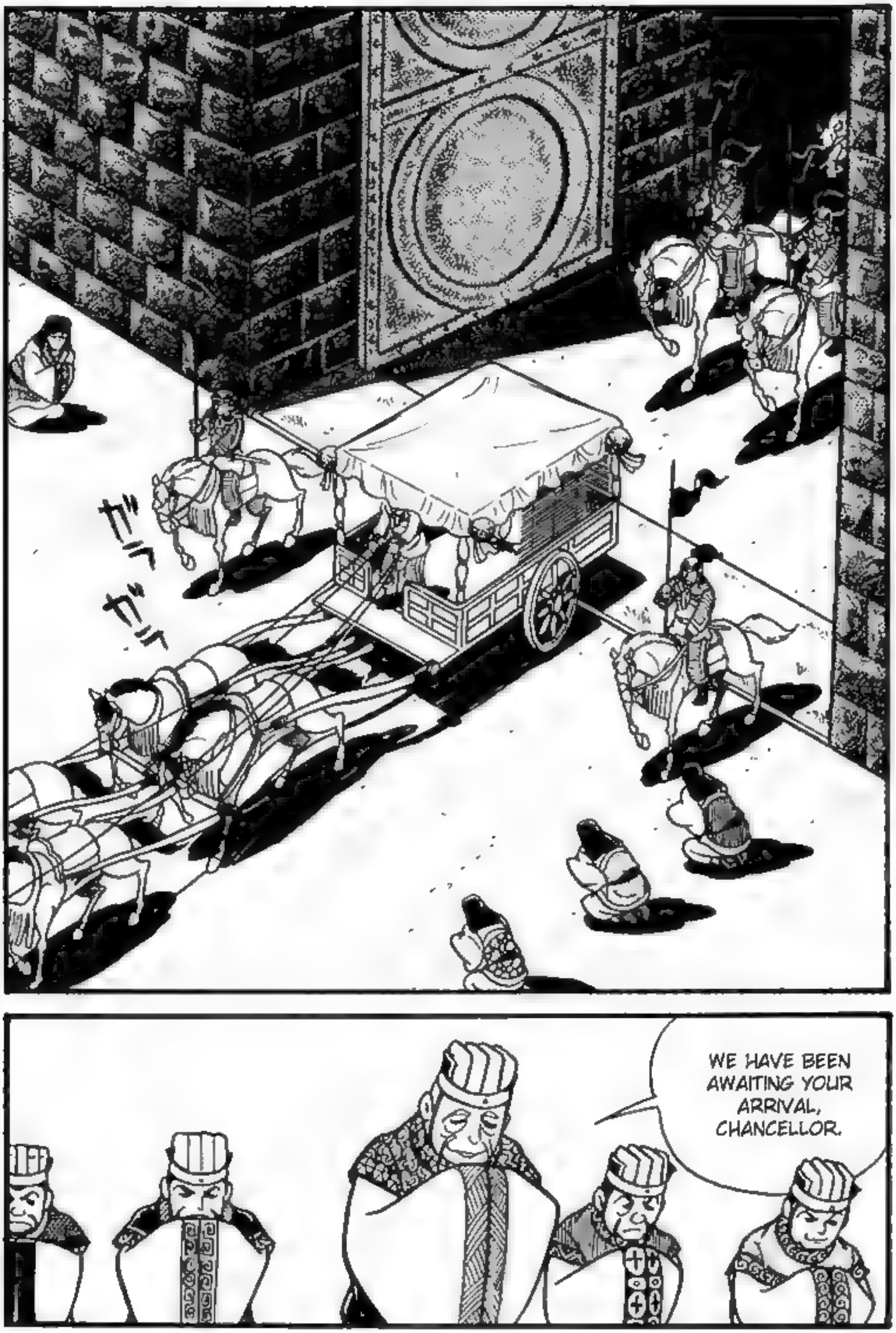
CHANCELLOR, I CAME TO CONGRATULATE SIR ON CLAIMING THE THRONE. PLEASE ALLOW THIS LU BU THE HONOUR OF ACCOMPANYING SIR.

THANK YOU, SIR.

WHY OF COURSE YOU CAN ACCOM-PANY ME.


HAHAHA! EVERY-THING SEEMS TO BE GOING WELL!




WE HAVE BEEN AWAITING YOUR ARRIVAL, CHANCELLOR.

I AM SURE SIR KNOWS THAT ONLY ONE UNIT OF BODY-GUARDS ARE ALLOWED TO ACCOMPANY SIR INTO THE IMPERIAL PALACE, RIGHT?

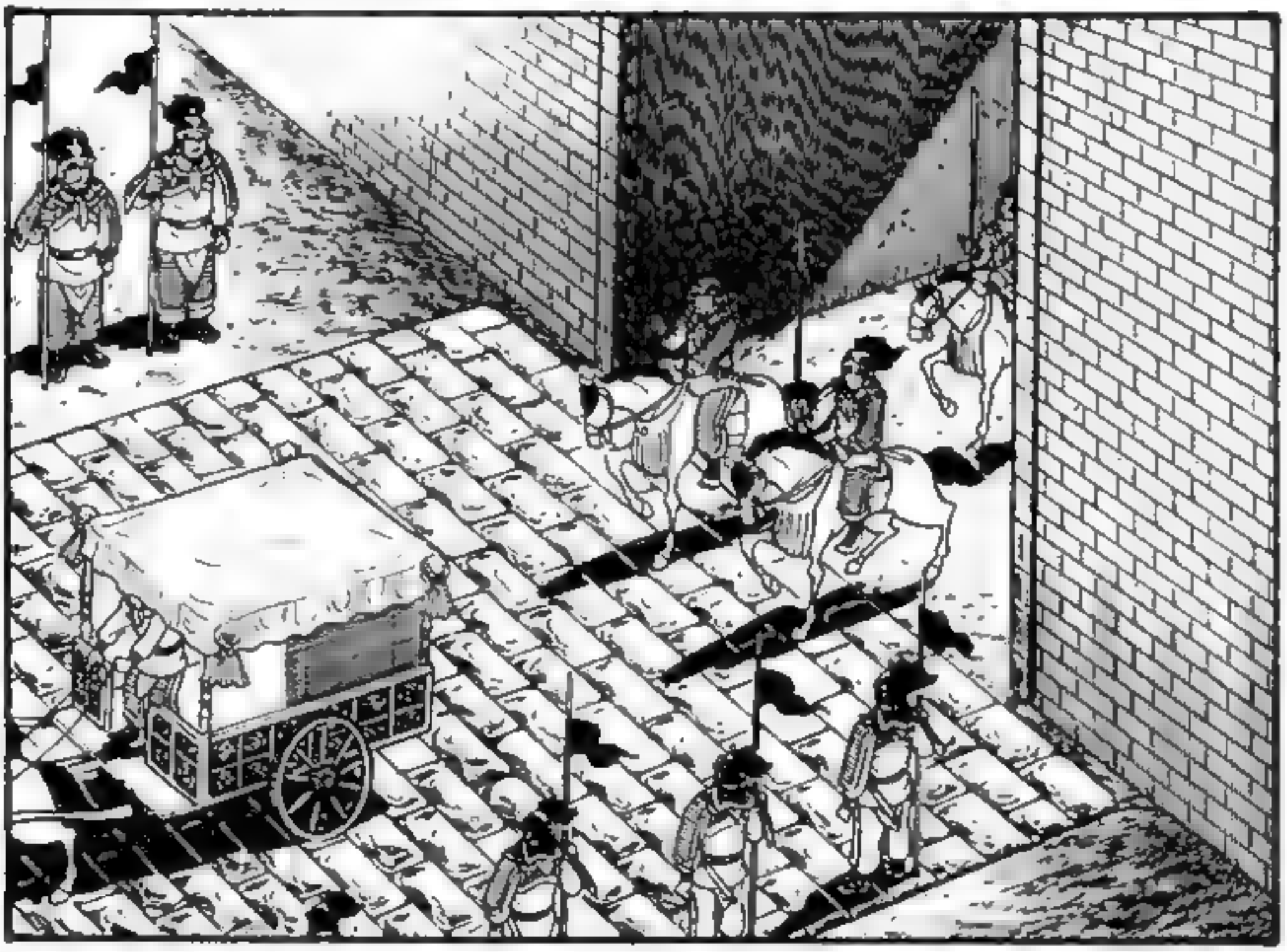
AH, GOOD DAY WANG YUN.

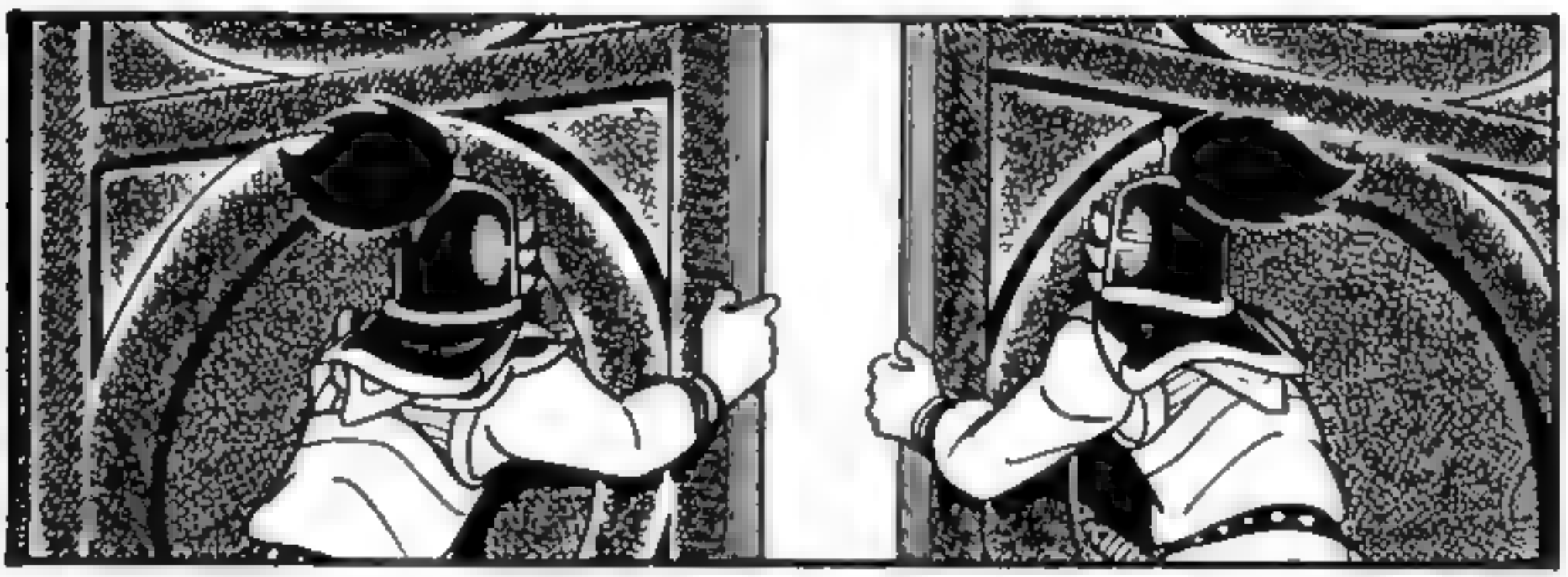
ALRIGHT, THE REST OF YOU MEN AWAIT MY TRIUMPHANT RETURN.

YES, YES. I KNOW VERY WELL.

YES.

THIS WAY, CHANCELLOR.





AHHH!

JUST WHO ARE THOSE ARMED MEN?

I BELIEVE THEY ARE MESSENGERS OF THE UNDERWORLD HERE TO ESCORT THE CHANCELLOR TO HIS DEATH.

T-THEN YOU ARE...!

WHAT!?

AGHH!

AGHHH!

L-LU BU...! WHAT ARE YOU STANDING BY IDLE FOR!?

I SHALL NOW EXECUTE DONG ZHUO UNDER THE IMPERIAL DECREE.

Y-YOU TOO, LU BU...?

AND SO ENDED THE LIFE OF THE TYRANT DONG ZHUO WHO ONCE RULED OVER ALL OF HAN

192 A.D. DONG ZHUO WAS MURDERED AT NOON AT THE AGE OF 54.

IT IS STILL PREMATURE FOR CELEBRATIONS!

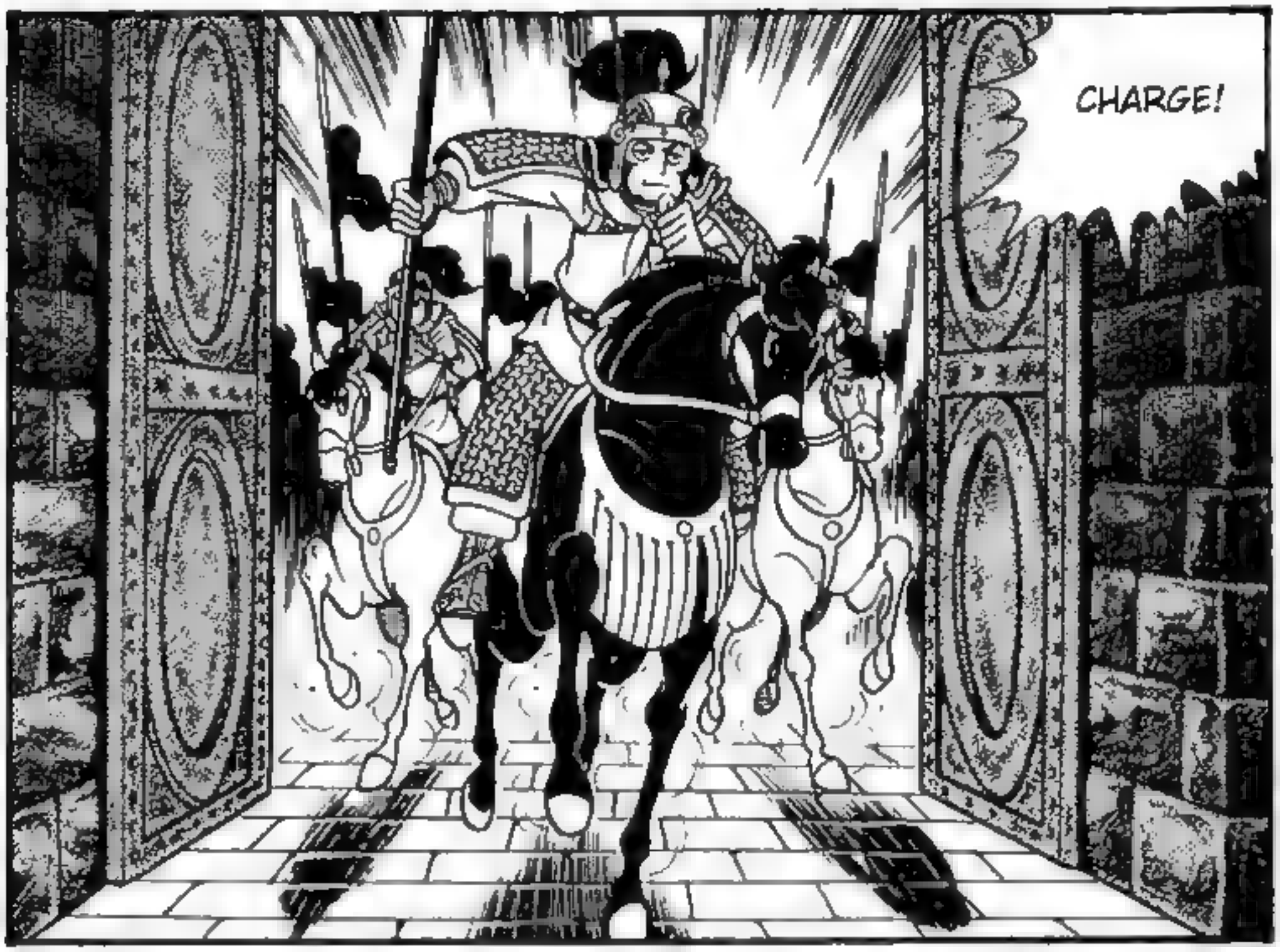
WE CAN CELEBRATE ONLY AFTER DEALING WITH THEM!

WE MUST STILL DEAL WITH THE SOLDIERS OUTSIDE AND THE ONES AT MEIWO.

OPEN THE GATES!

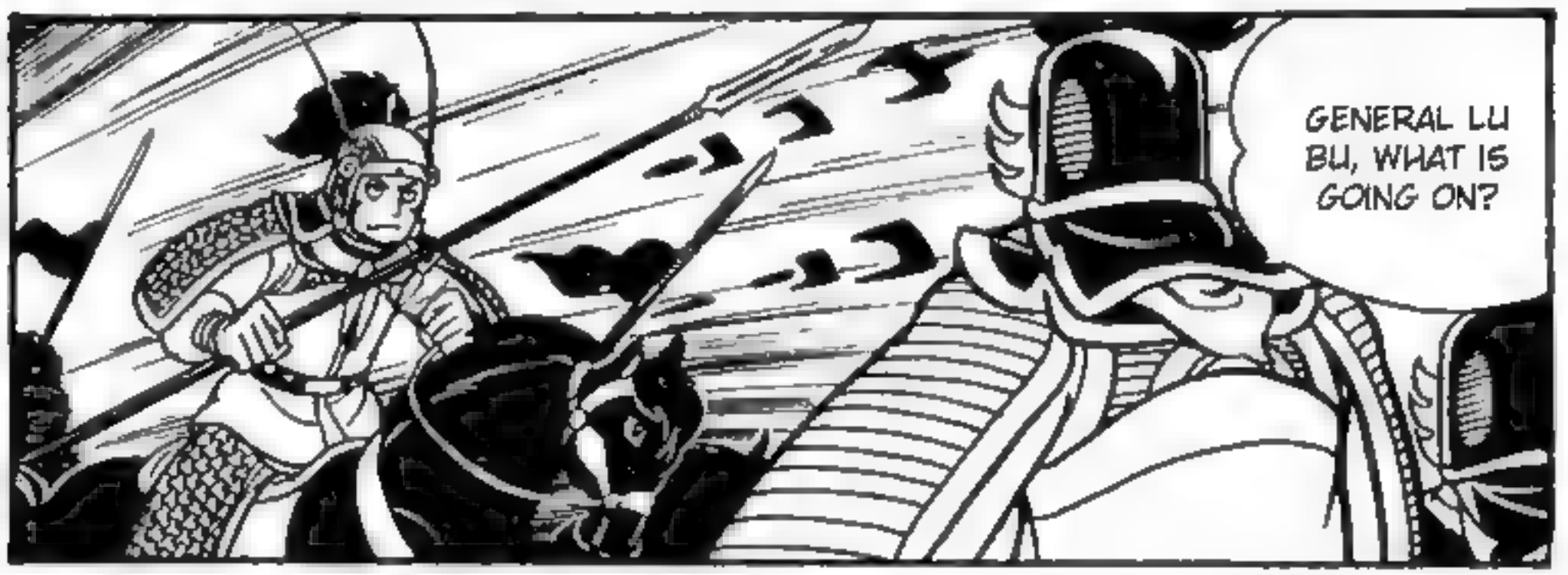
ALRIGHT, LET US ATTACK.

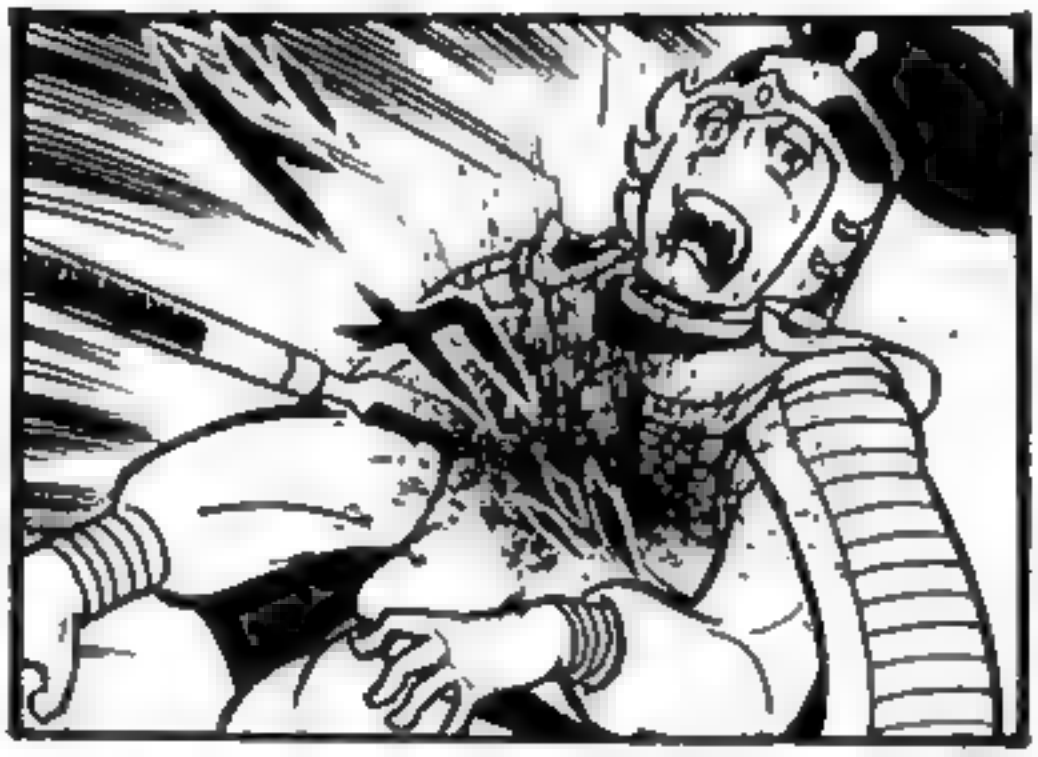
ズィィィ!

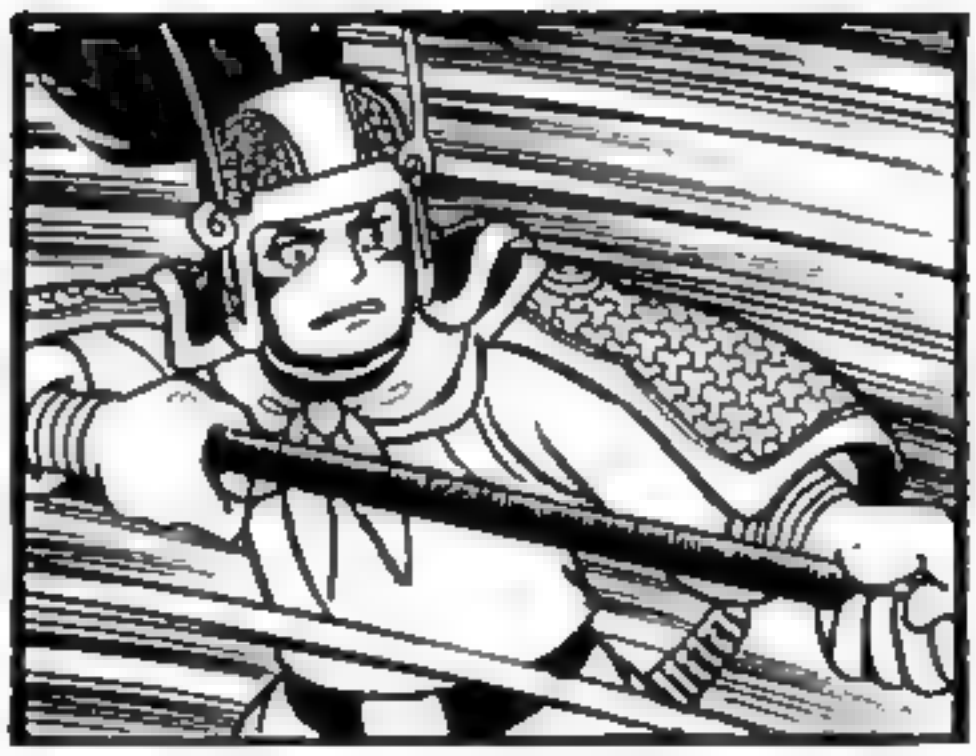

CHARGE!

?
HUH?

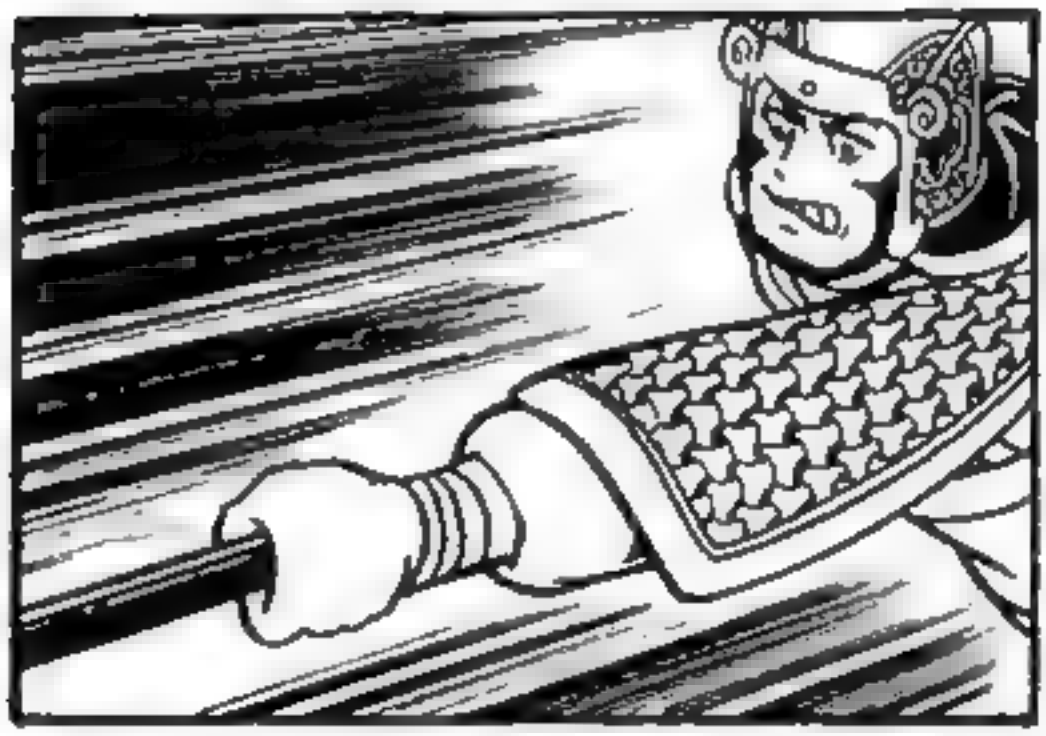
WHAT?


GENERAL LU BU, WHAT IS GOING ON?





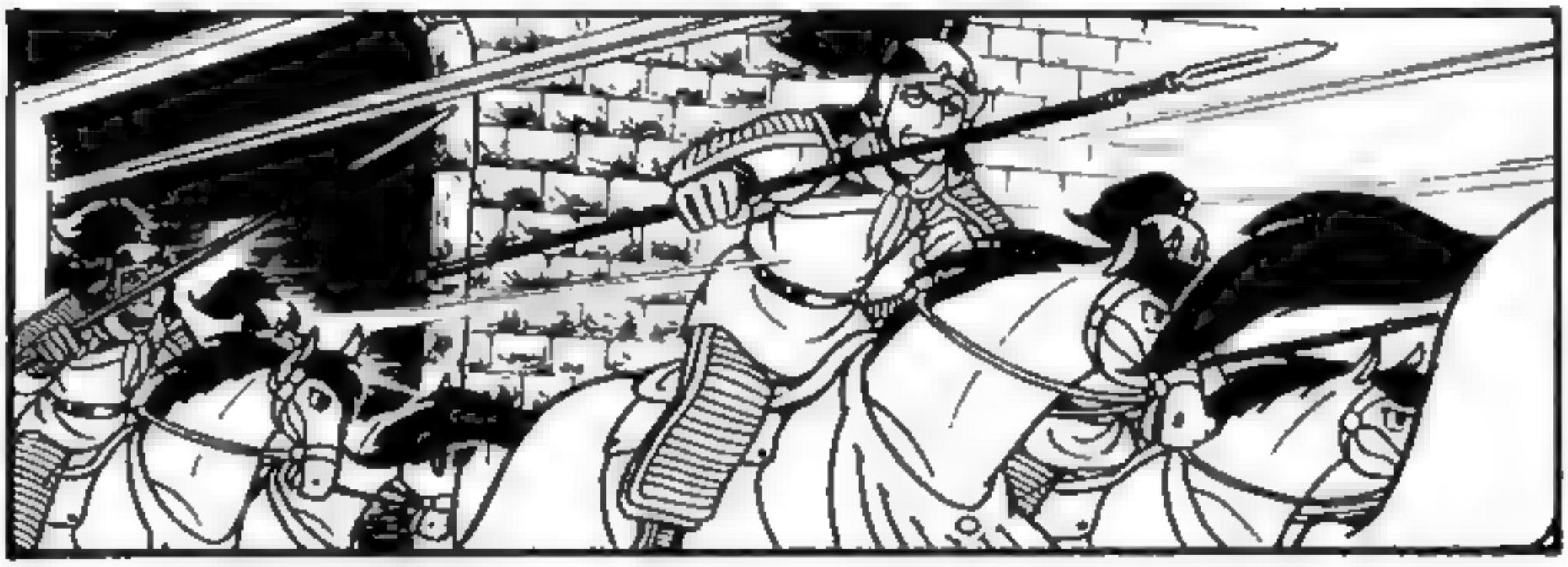
UNDER THE IMPERIAL DECREE, I HAVE COME TO SLAY ALL OF YOU!



L-LU BU...

AHHHH!

GAHHHH!!!



LET US CHARGE ALL THE WAY INTO MEIWO!

?

URGENT REPORT!

?

WHAT!?

DONG ZHUO HAS BEEN SLAIN BY GENERAL LU BU, WHO IS NOW LEADING AN ARMY OF 30,000 TO ATTACK THE CASTLE OF MEIWO!

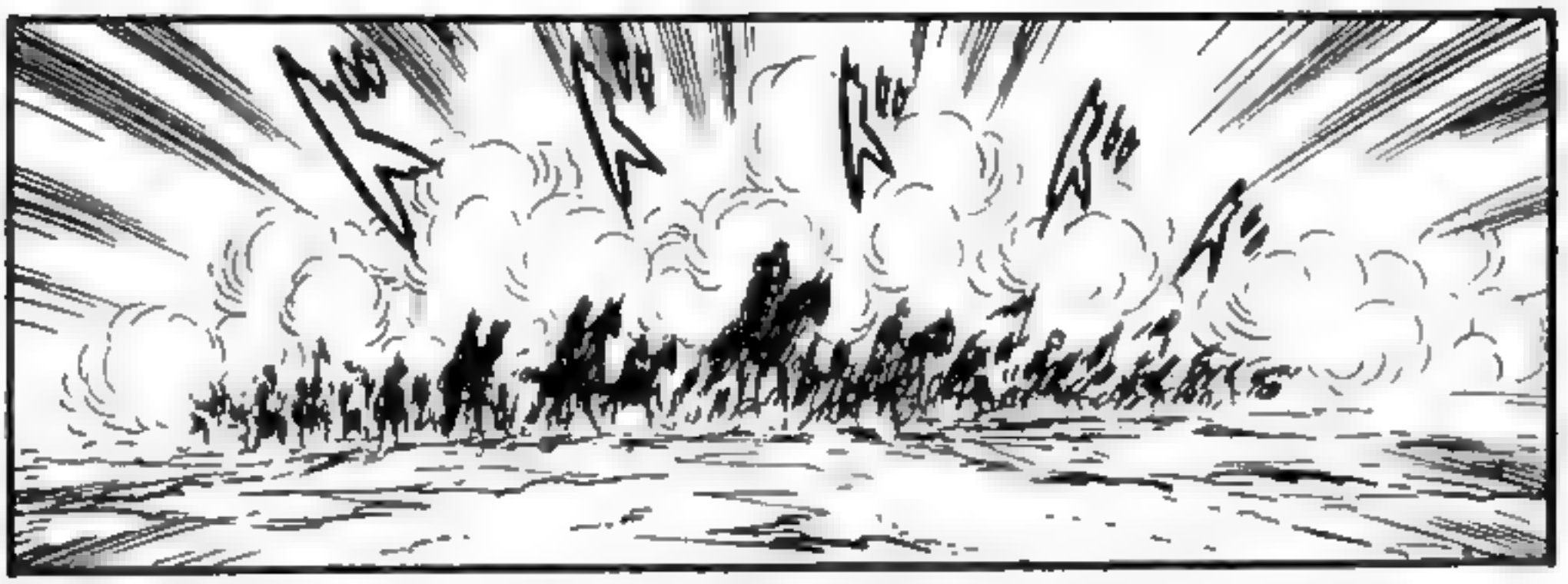
AND THE SOL-DIERS WILL FLEE WHEN THEY HEAR THAT DONG ZHUO HAS BEEN KILLED!

THERE'S NO WAY WE COULD MATCH LU BU!

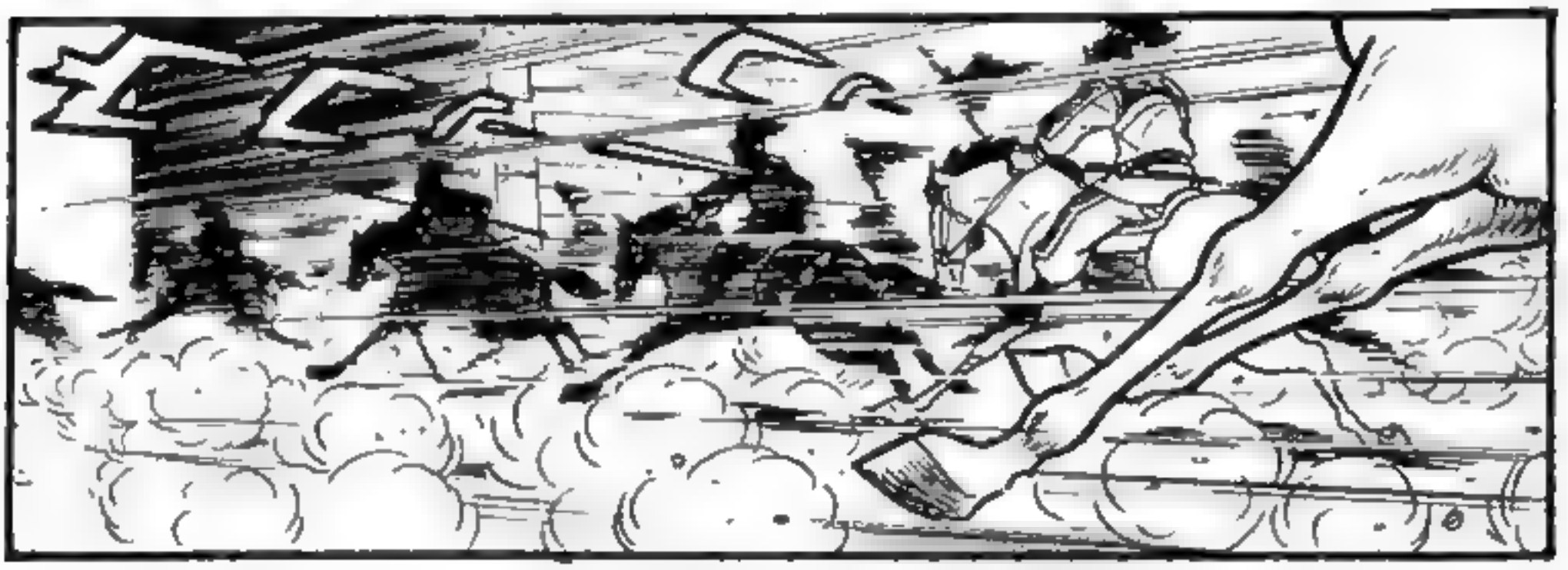
GENERAL LU BU!?

YES. LET US ESCAPE FOR NOW AND THEN LATER REGROUP AND THINK OF A GOOD BATTLE PLAN.

THEN LET US RUN AWAY FOR NOW.



COME ON MEN! MEIWO IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF OUR EYES! LET US CHARGE IN AND CRUSH THE RESISTANCE!



AH!

AND MOVE ALL OF DONG ZHUO'S TREASURES TO CHANG'AN!

KILL ANYONE STILL LEFT BEHIND!

IT SEEMS THAT WAY.

GENERAL, THEY MUST HAVE FLED ALREADY.

AGHHH!

DIAO CHAN! DIAO CHAN, WHERE ARE YOU!?

GENERAL LU BU!

DIAO CHAN!

YOU'RE FINALLY MY WOMAN AND NO ONE ELSE'S...

WHAT!?

I'VE SLAIN DONG ZHUO.

YES... YOU SEEM HAPPY TO HEAR THAT.

HAS DONG ZHUO REALLY BEEN KILLED AT LAST?

YES.

I STILL HAVE SOME THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF HERE SO YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO MY HOME FIRST.

YES, SIR.

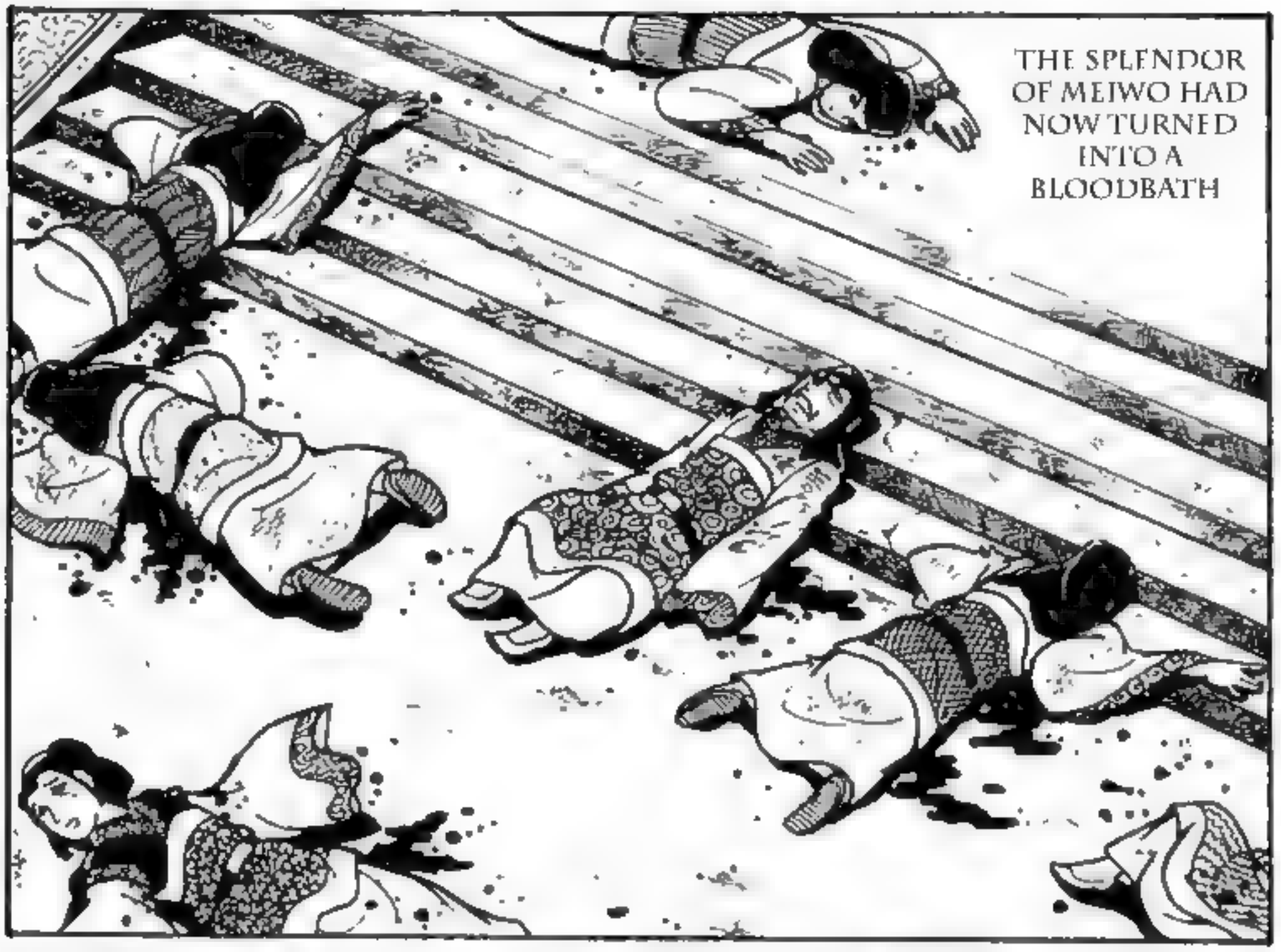
ESCORT DIAO CHAN BACK TO MY HOME.

AND MY EFFORTS HAVE BORN FRUIT AT LAST.

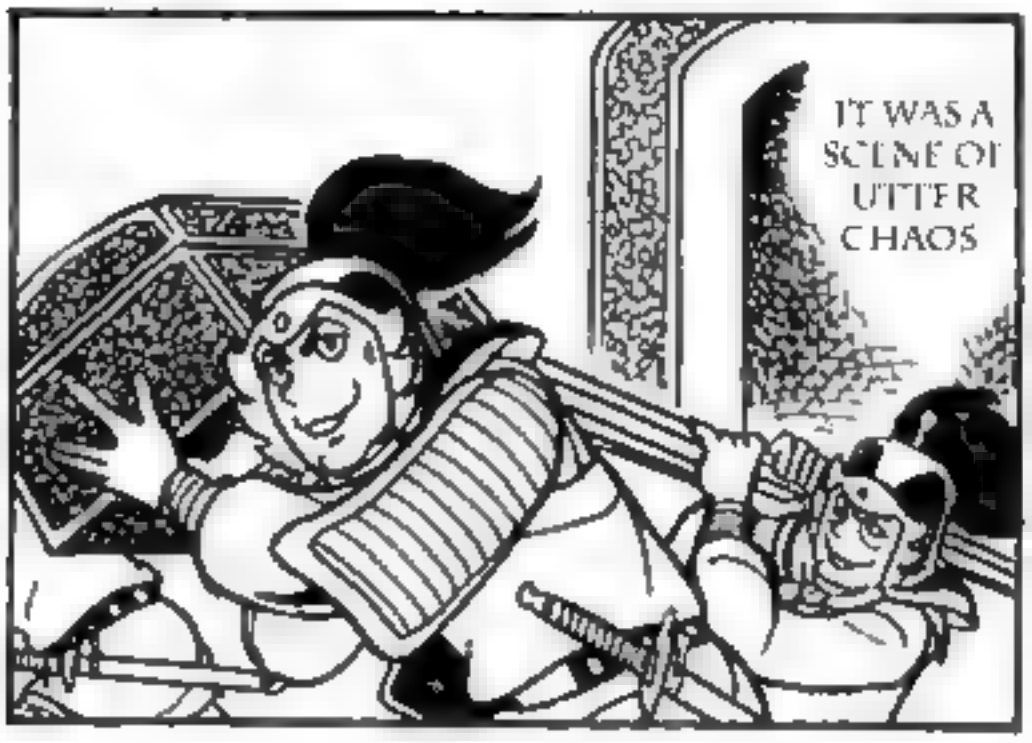
MASTER WANG YUN, I HAVE GIVEN MY BODY FOR THE SAKE OF TURNING LU BU AGAINST DONG ZHUO.

YES.

COME, I SHALL ESCORT YOU TO THE GENERAL'S HOME AS PER HIS ORDERS.

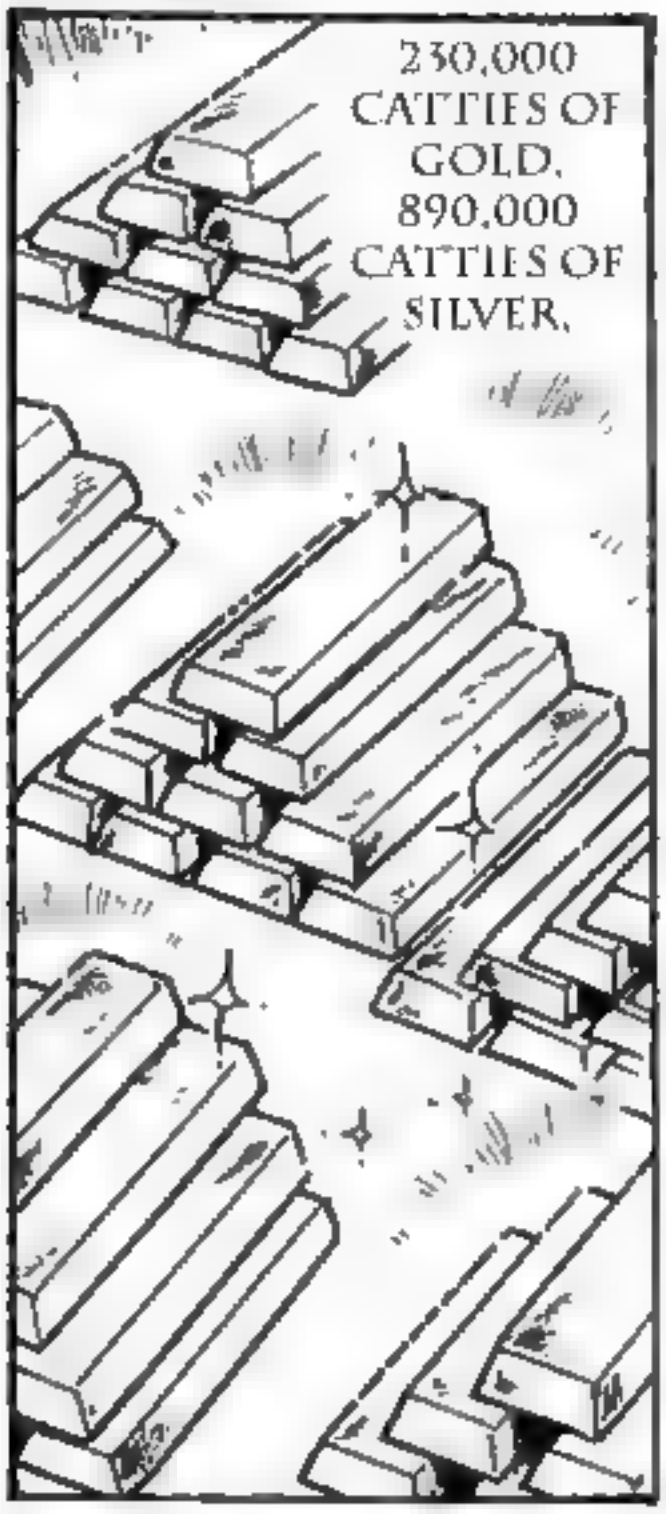

THE SPLENDOR OF MEIWO HAD NOW TURNED INTO A BLOODBATH

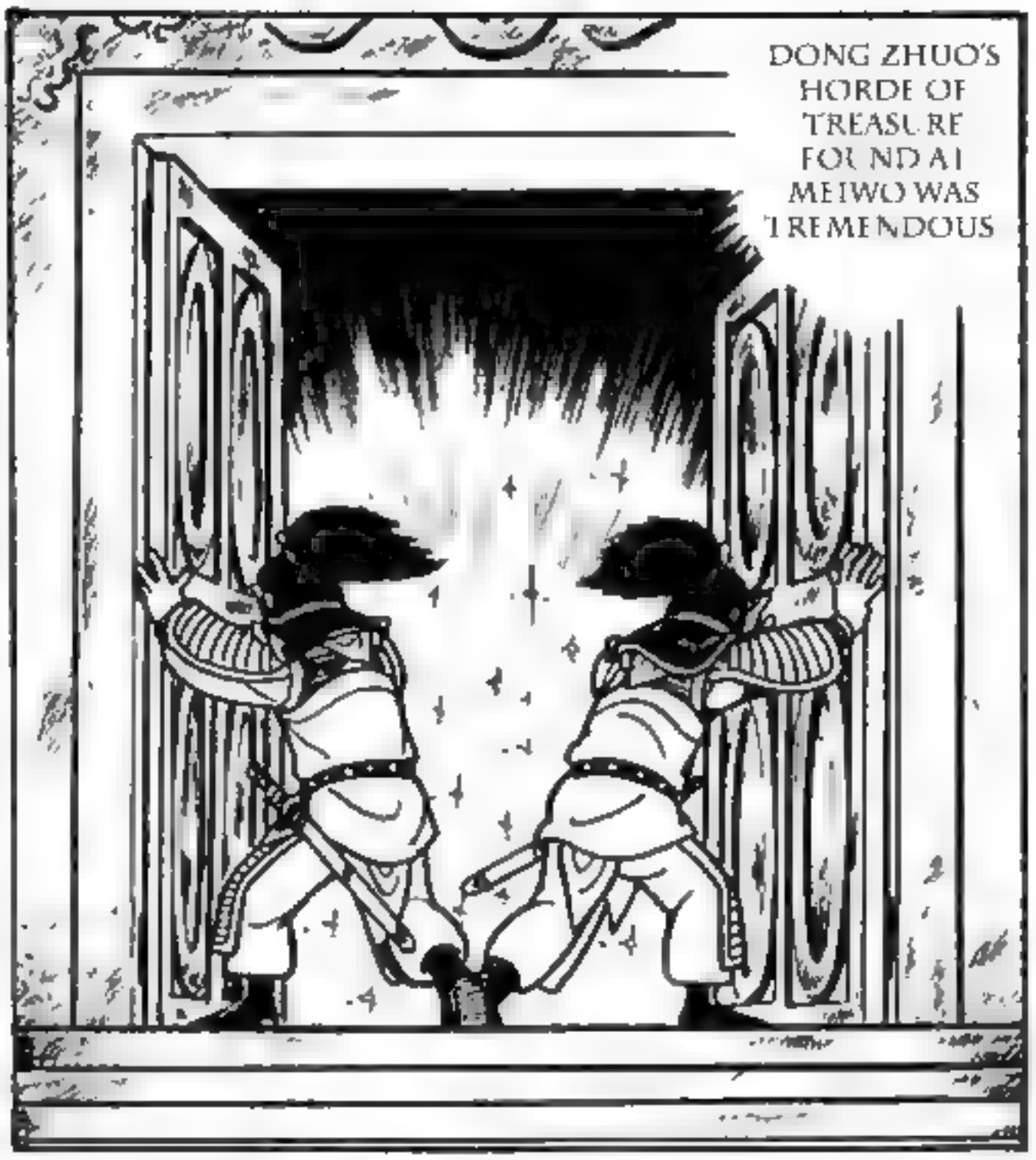
SPURRED ON BY THE VIOLENCE, THE SOLDIERS ASSAULTED DONG ZHUO'S 808 MAIDENS.

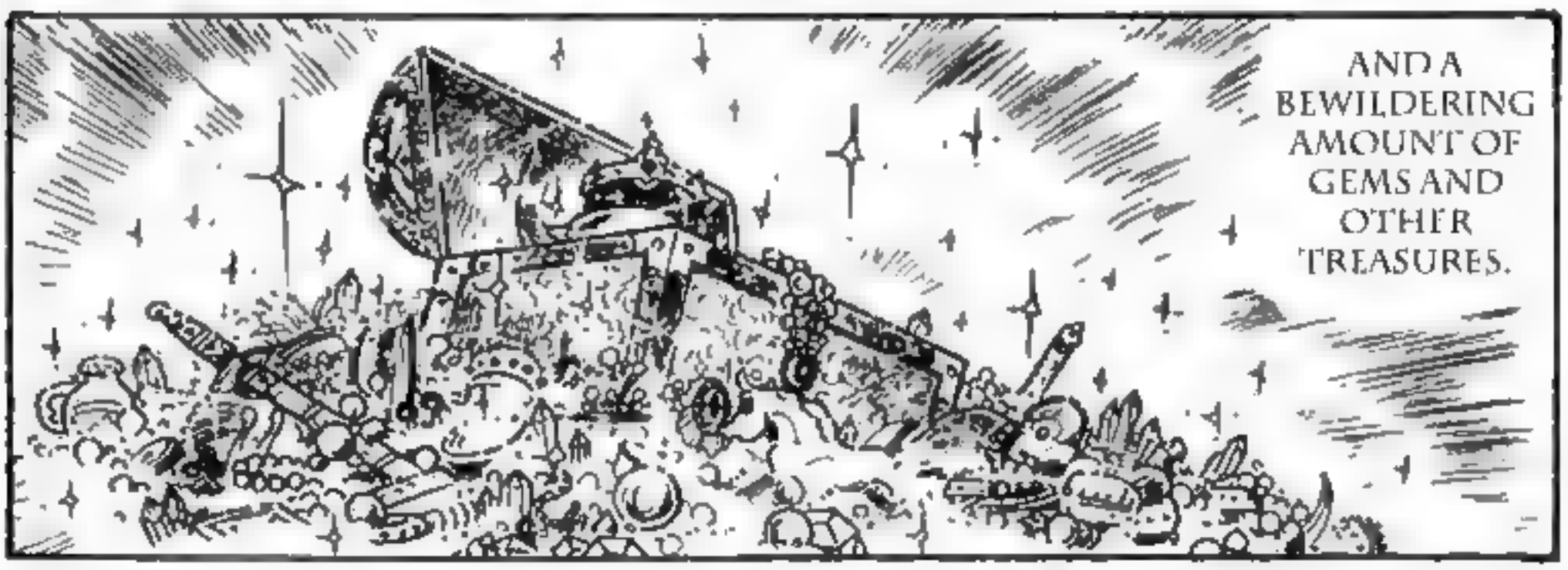

IT WAS A SCENE OF UTTER CHAOS

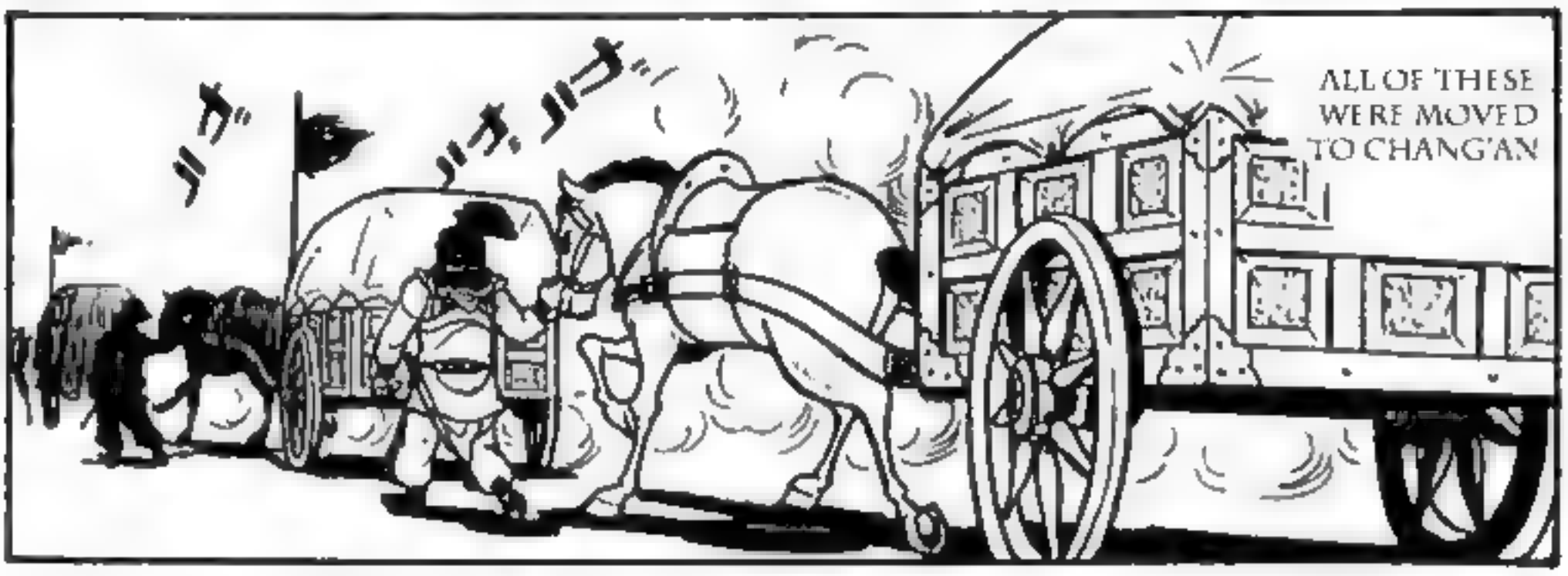
AND PILLAGED ALL SORTS OF TREA-SURES

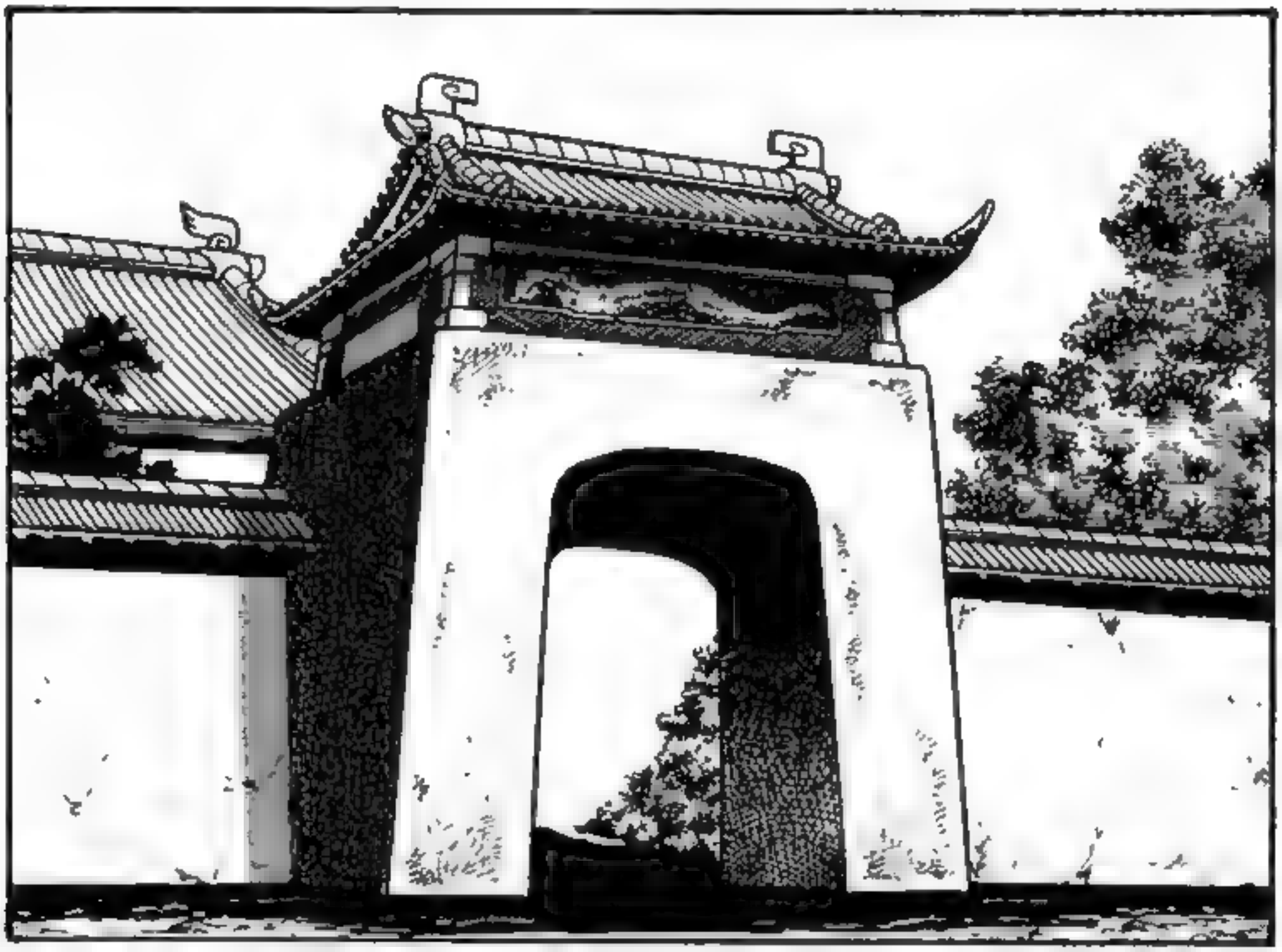
*catty = 0.6kg approx











I HAVE RETURNED.

YES, THE PEOPLE OF CHANG'AN ARE ALL PRAISING THE GENERAL AS A HERO OF OUR TIMES.

SIR HAS ACCOMPLISHED A MOST HEROIC DEED.

IS THAT SO?

I DON'T SEE DIAO CHAN HERE.

HMM?

DIAO CHAN!?

SHE RETREATED TO HER SLEEPING QUARTERS EARLIER.

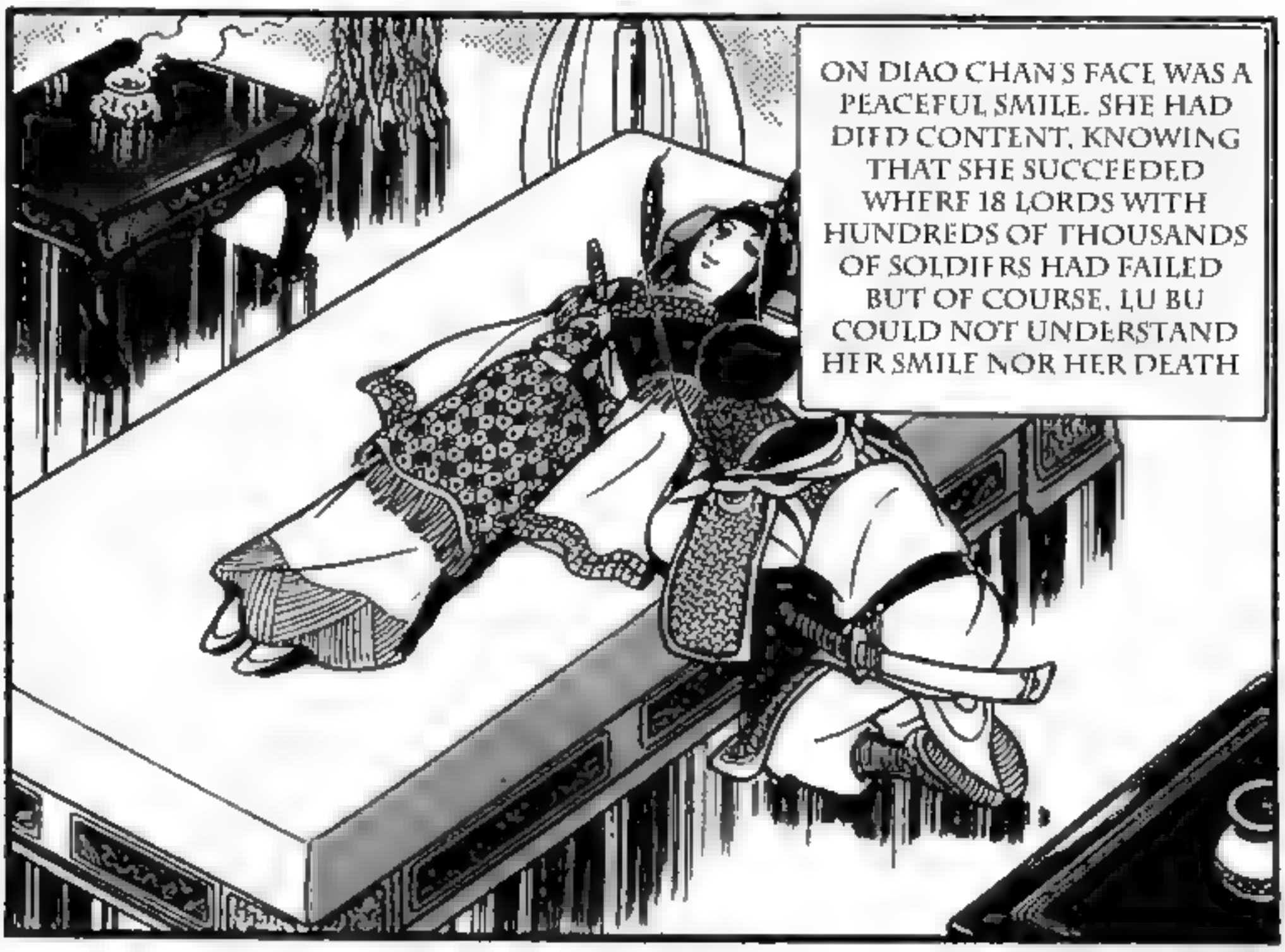
WHAT!?

DIAO CHAN, WHY WEREN'T YOU OUT TO WELCOME ME BA...

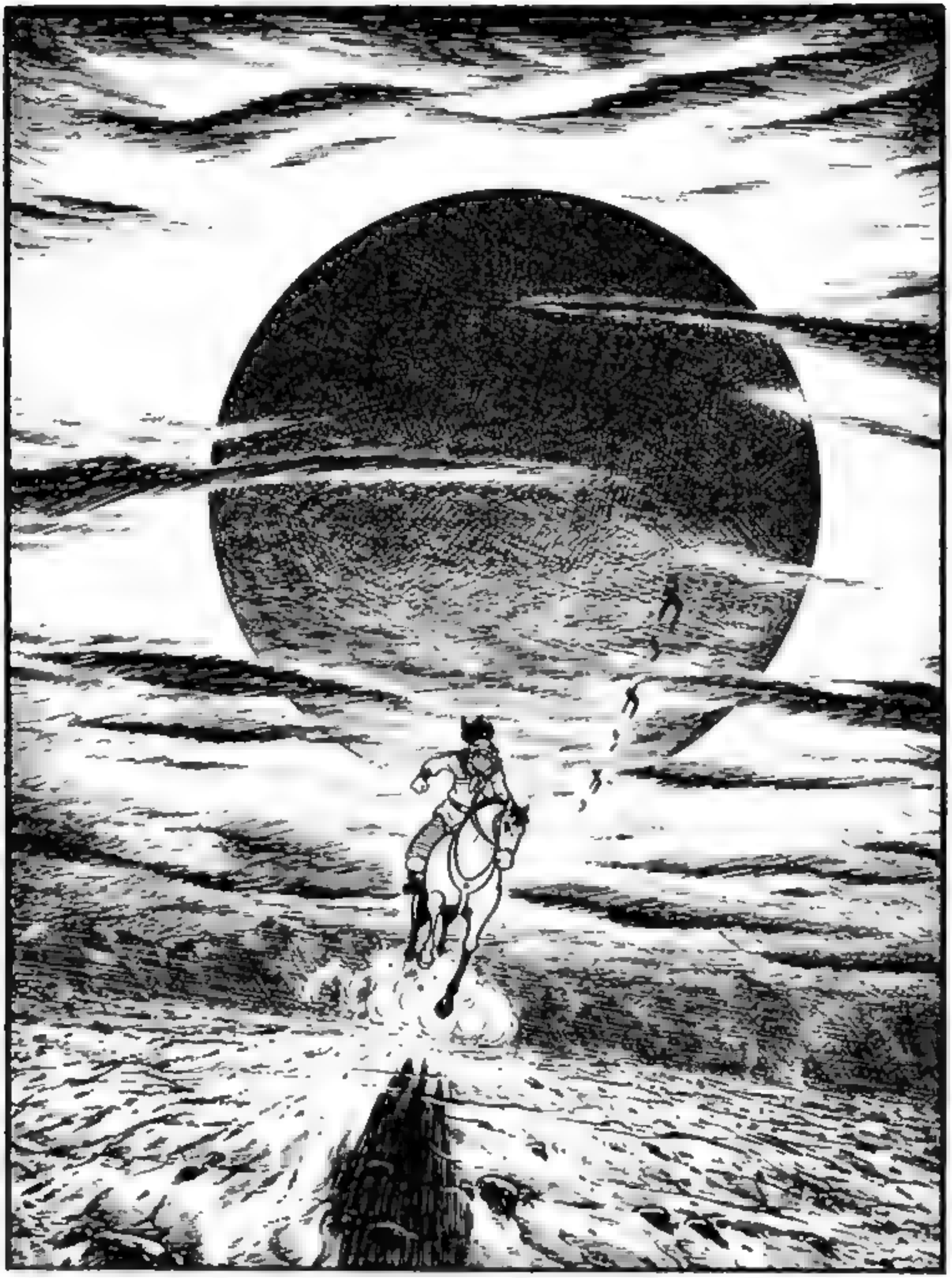
WHY...!?

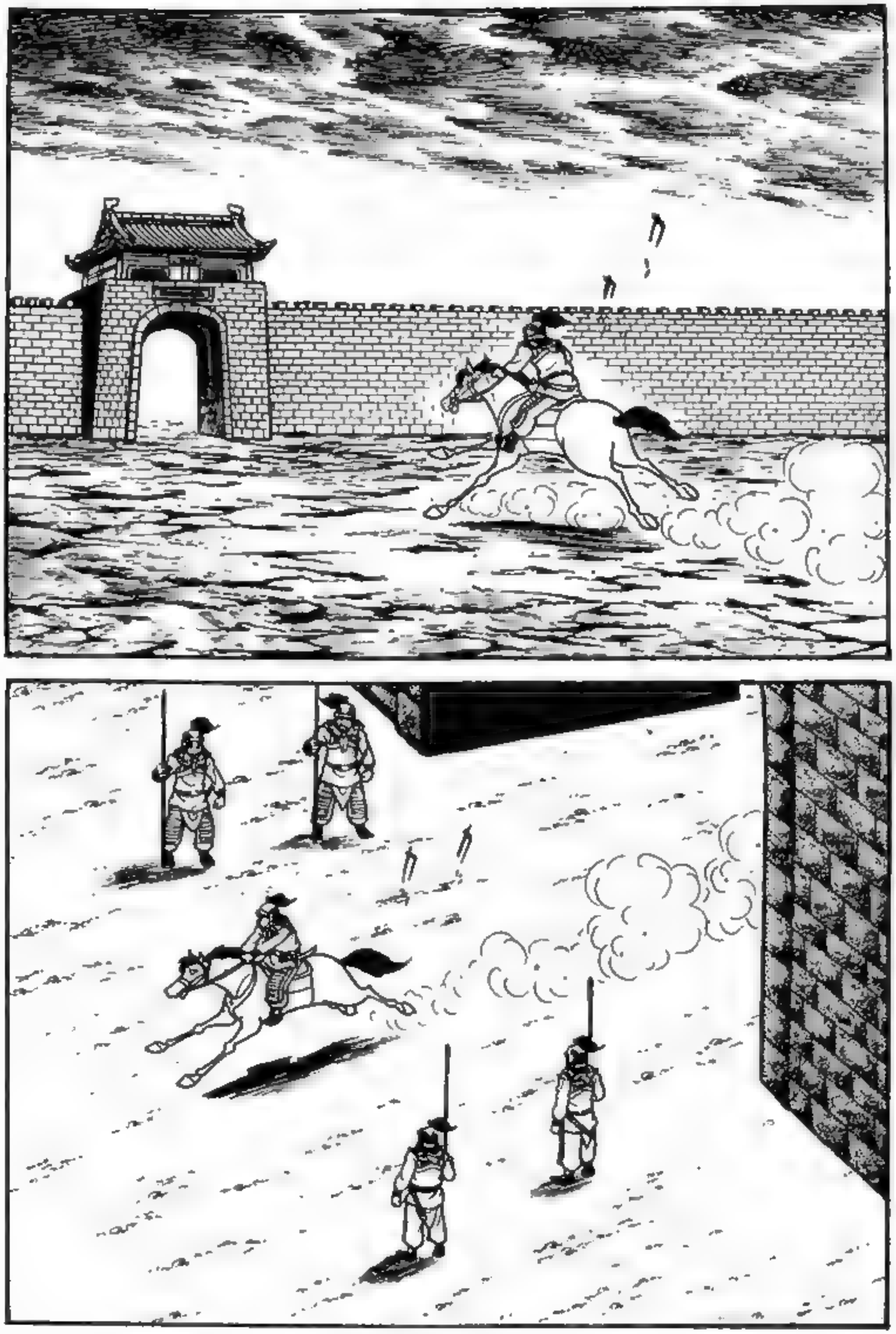
DIAO CHAN!

WHY DID YOU END YOUR LIFE WHEN OUR LIFE TOGETHER WAS TO BEGIN AT LAST...!?


ON DIAO CHAN'S FACE WAS A PEACEFUL SMILE. SHE HAD DIED CONTENT, KNOWING THAT SHE SUCCEEDED WHERE 18 LORDS WITH HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS HAD FAILED
BUT OF COURSE, LU BU COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HER SMILE NOR HER DEATH

DEATH OF CAO SONG





URGENT REPORT!

WHAT IS IT?

DONG ZHUO OF CHANG'AN HAS BEEN KILLED, SIR.

DONG ZHUO... KILLED...!?

IS THIS TRUE!?

WHAT!?

IT WAS ACTUALLY LU BU WHO KILLED DONG ZHUO.

BUT THE MIGHTY LU BU SHOULD HAVE BEEN BY HIS SIDE...!

KILLED BY LU BU...!?

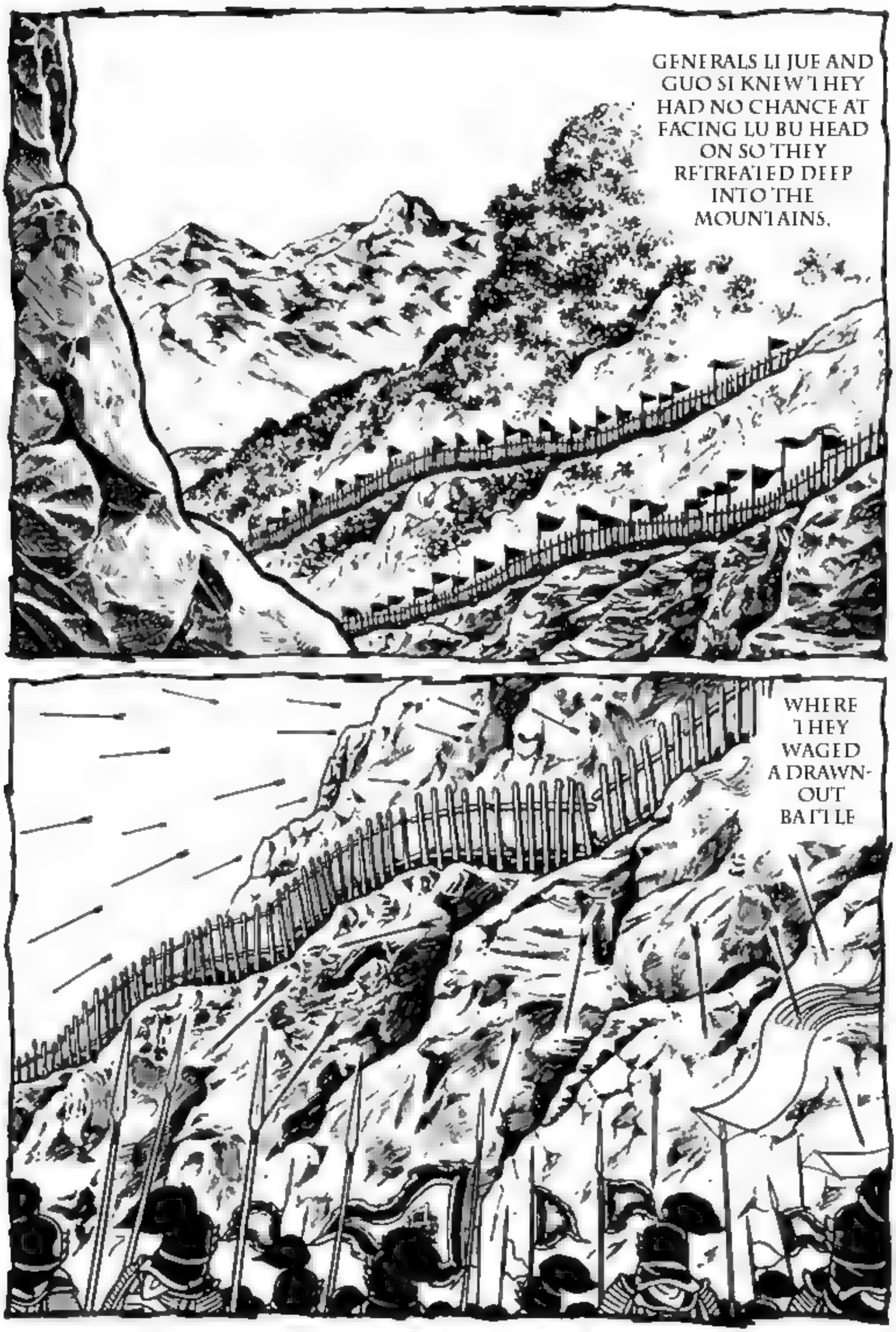
SO LU BU HAS NOW TAKEN CONTROL OF THE CAPITAL, HAS HE...?

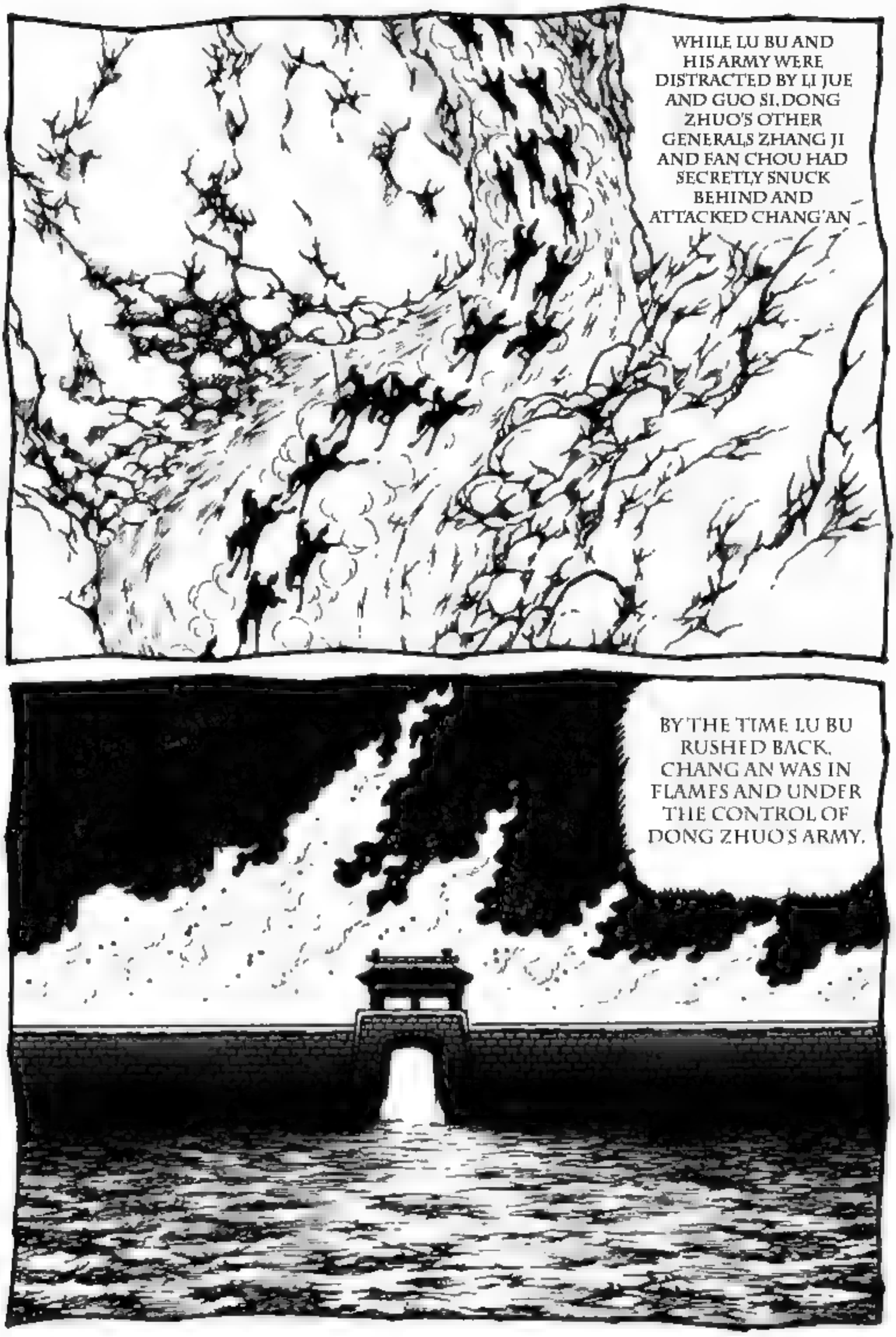
I SEE...

HMM? JUST WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED?

NO, SIR. IT IS DONG ZHUO'S SUBORDI-NATES LI JUE AND GUO SI WHO HAVE SEIZED CONTROL OF CHANG'AN.

LU BU AND HIS ARMY LEFT THE CAPITAL TO PURSUE DONG ZHUO'S SUBORDI-NATES WHO FLED FROM MEIWO


GENERALS LI JUE AND GUO SI KNEW THEY HAD NO CHANCE AT FACING LU BU HEAD ON SO THEY RETREATED DEEP INTO THE MOUNTAINS.
WHERE THEY WAGED A DRAWN-OUT BATTLE


WHILE LU BU AND HIS ARMY WERE DISTRACTED BY LI JUE AND GUO SI, DONG ZHUO'S OTHER GENERALS ZHANG JI AND FAN CHOU HAD SECRETLY SNUCK BEHIND AND ATTACKED CHANG'AN
BY THE TIME LU BU RUSHED BACK, CHANG AN WAS IN FLAMES AND UNDER THE CONTROL OF DONG ZHUO'S ARMY.

FIERCE AS LU BU WAS, HE COULD NOT DO ANYTHING BUT STAMP HIS FOOT IN DISAPPOINTMENT
GRINDING HIS TEETH, LU BU LEFT TO BIDE HIS TIME UNDER YUAN SHU'S CARE,

BUT THAT LU BU HAS THE DAMNDEST LUCK. WHAT AN UNLUCKY STAR HE MUST HAVE BEEN BORN UNDER...

I SEE...

ALL THAT EFFORT, YET HE LOSES CONTROL OF THE CAPITAL AND IS LEFT WITH NO TERRITORY OF HIS OWN...

KILLING TWO OF HIS FOSTER-FATHERS, DING YUAN AND DONG ZHUO...

IT SEEMS THAT HARSH TIMES STILL LIE AHEAD FOR THIS LAND...

JUST AS CAO CAO HAD PRE DICTED,

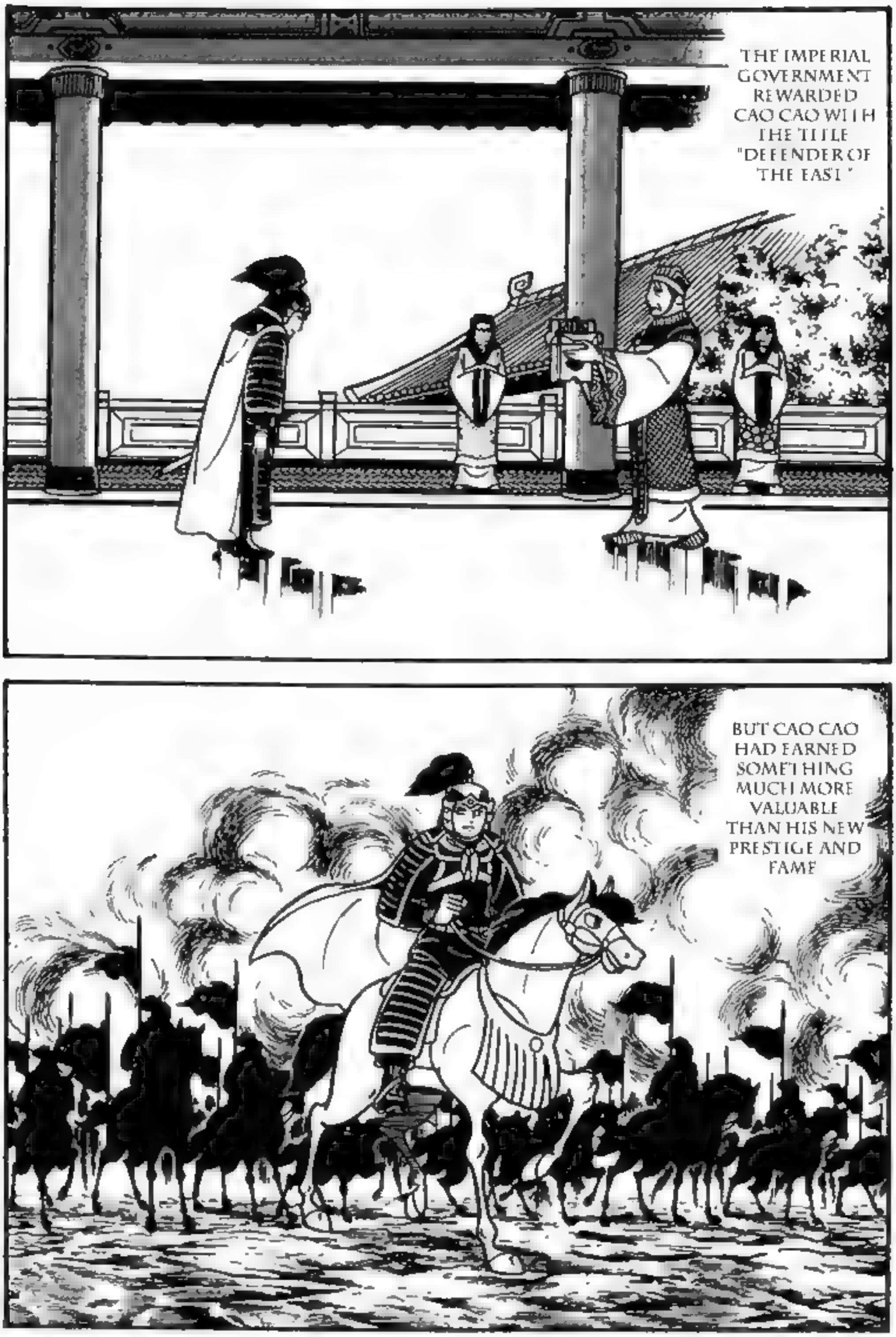
NEWS OF DONG ZHUO'S DEATH HAD STIRRED UP REMNANTS OF THE YELLOW SCARF REBELS

THEY LEAPT AT THE FIRST WORD THAT THE COUNTRY WAS UNSTABLE AND BEGAN THEIR RAMAPAGE CONFUSION AND ANARCHY ROAMED THE LAND ONCE MORE.

CAO CAO SOON RECEIVED AN IMPERIAL EDICT ORDERING HIM TO SUPPRESS THE REBELLION.

CAO CAO QUICKLY MOBILIZED HIS ARMY.

AND SUCCEEDED
IN SUPPRESSING
THE ENTIRE
REBELLION WITHIN
A MERE 100 DAYS

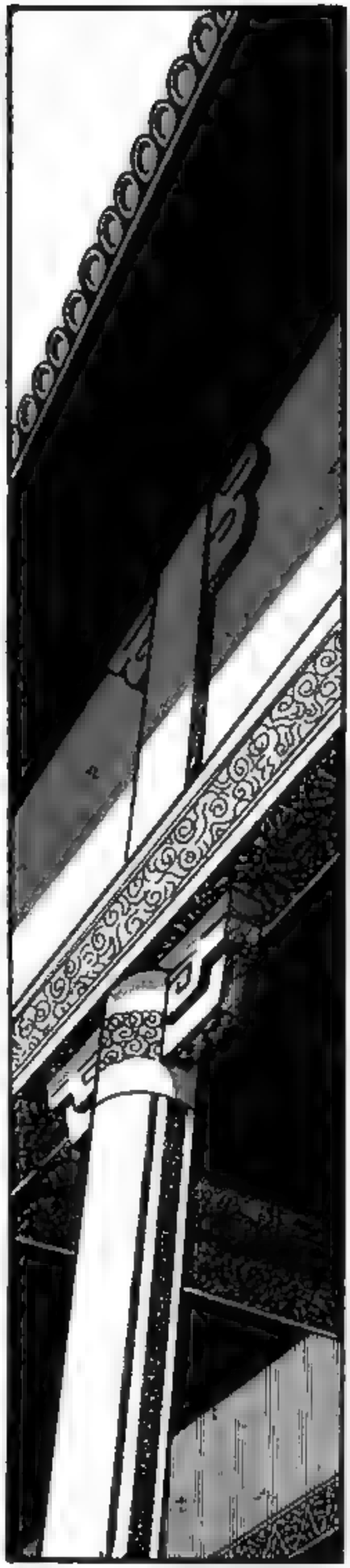

THE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT REWARDED CAO CAO WITH THE TITLE "DEFENDER OF THE EAST"
BUT CAO CAO HAD EARNED SOMETHING MUCH MORE VALUABLE THAN HIS NEW PRESTIGE AND FAME

AND THAT WAS HIS NEW ARMY NUMBERING NEARLY A MILLION. 300,000 OF WHICH CAME FROM REBELS WHO SURRENDERED WHILE THE REST WERE COMMON FOLK OF GREAT TALENT PICKED OUT BY CAO CAO. HIS NEW ARMY WAS KNOWN AS THE QINGZHOU ARMY

CAO CAO STEADILY BUILT THE FOUNDATION FOR HIS RISE TO POWER

WHAT IS MY LORD THINKING SO DEEPLY ABOUT?

I WAS THINKING OF MY FATHER.



I WISH TO BRING MY FATHER OVER HERE AND TREAT HIM WELL.

THINKING BACK, I REALIZE THAT I HAVE BEEN A RATHER UNRULY AND SON.

YES. AS THEY SAY, IT IS BETTER TO NOT DELAY A GOOD DEED.

A MOST EXCELLENT IDEA, MY LORD.

YES, MY LORD.

SEND A MESSENGER TO MY FATHER RIGHT AWAY.

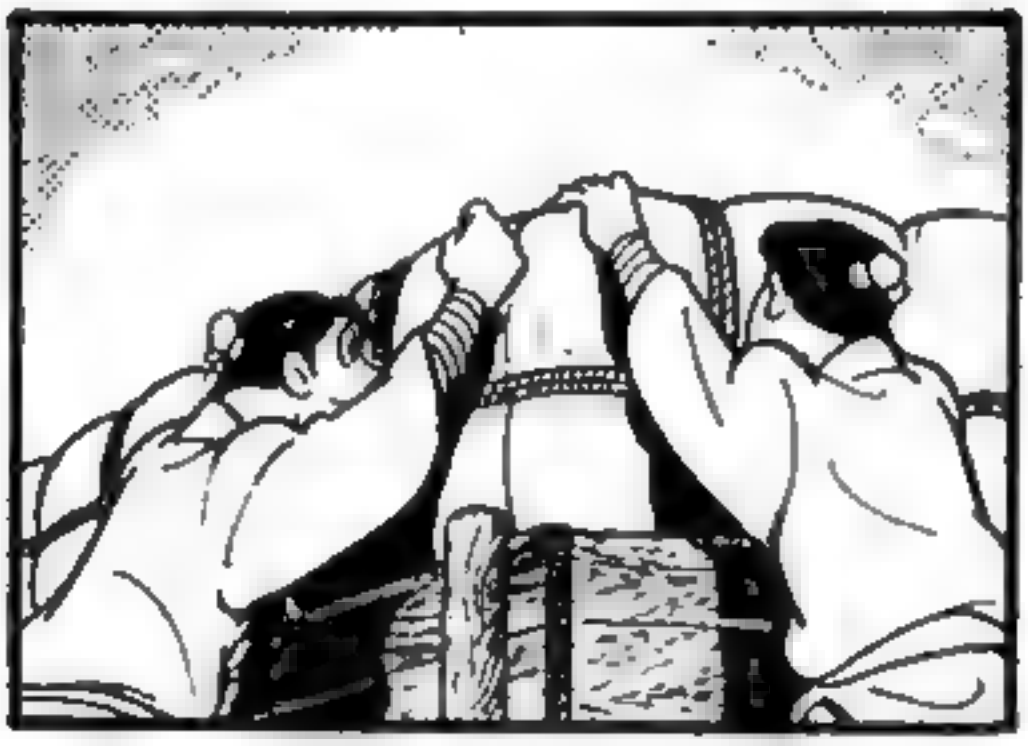
YES, MY LORD SAYS HE WISHES TO LIVE WITH HIS FATHER.

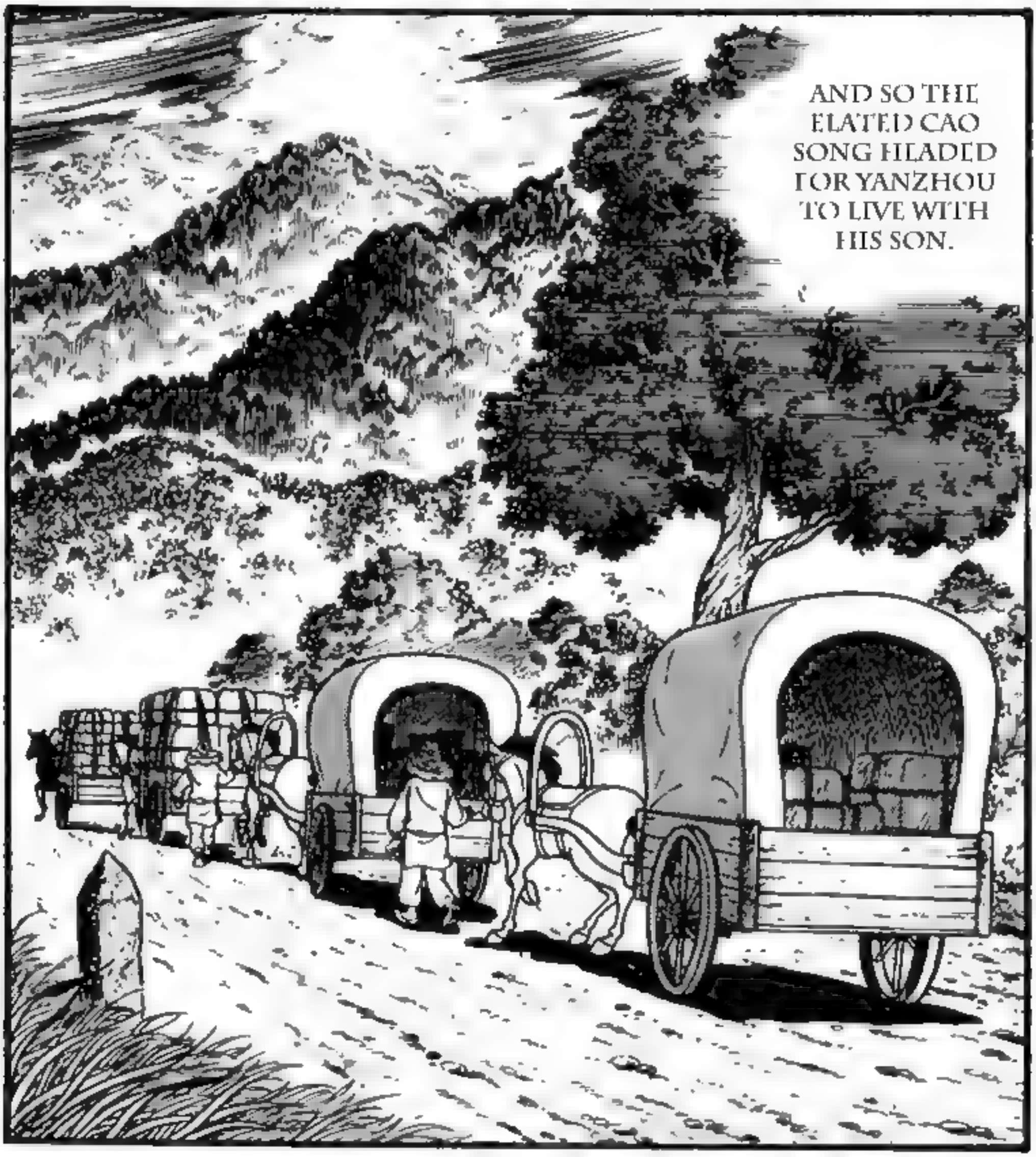
WHAT, CAO CAO IS CALLING FOR ME?

MY OTHER RELATIVES ALWAYS SPOKE OF HIS FLAWS BUT JUST LOOK AT THE FINE MAN HE HAS BECOME!

OHH, IS THAT SO!?

I ALWAYS KNEW HE WOULD GO ON TO DO GREAT THINGS.
ALRIGHT, PACK UP EVERYTHING AND PREPARE FOR THE MOVE TO YANZHOU!




AND SO THE ELATED CAO SONG HEADED FOR YANZHOU TO LIVE WITH HIS SON.

XUZHOU

THE GOVERNOR OF THE REGION HERE WAS TAO QIAN.

CAO CAO'S FATHER IS MOVING TO LIVE WITH HIS SON AND HE WILL BE PASSING BY THIS REGION ALONG THE WAY.

NEWS OF WHAT?

HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS, GOVERNOR?

CAO CAO'S FATHER!?

THEN THIS SHALL BE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY AS SIR CAN INVITE HIS FATHER TO STAY THE NIGHT HERE.

I HAVE ALWAYS WISHED TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH CAO CAO.

YES, SIR.

YES, SEND A MESSENGER TO CAO SONG RIGHT AWAY.

AND THAT ALL THE CAPABLE MEN OF THIS LAND ARE FLOCKING TO SERVE HIM...?

IS IT TRUE THAT MASTER'S SON HAS BECOME A GENERAL LEADING A MIGHTY ARMY OF A MILLION MEN?

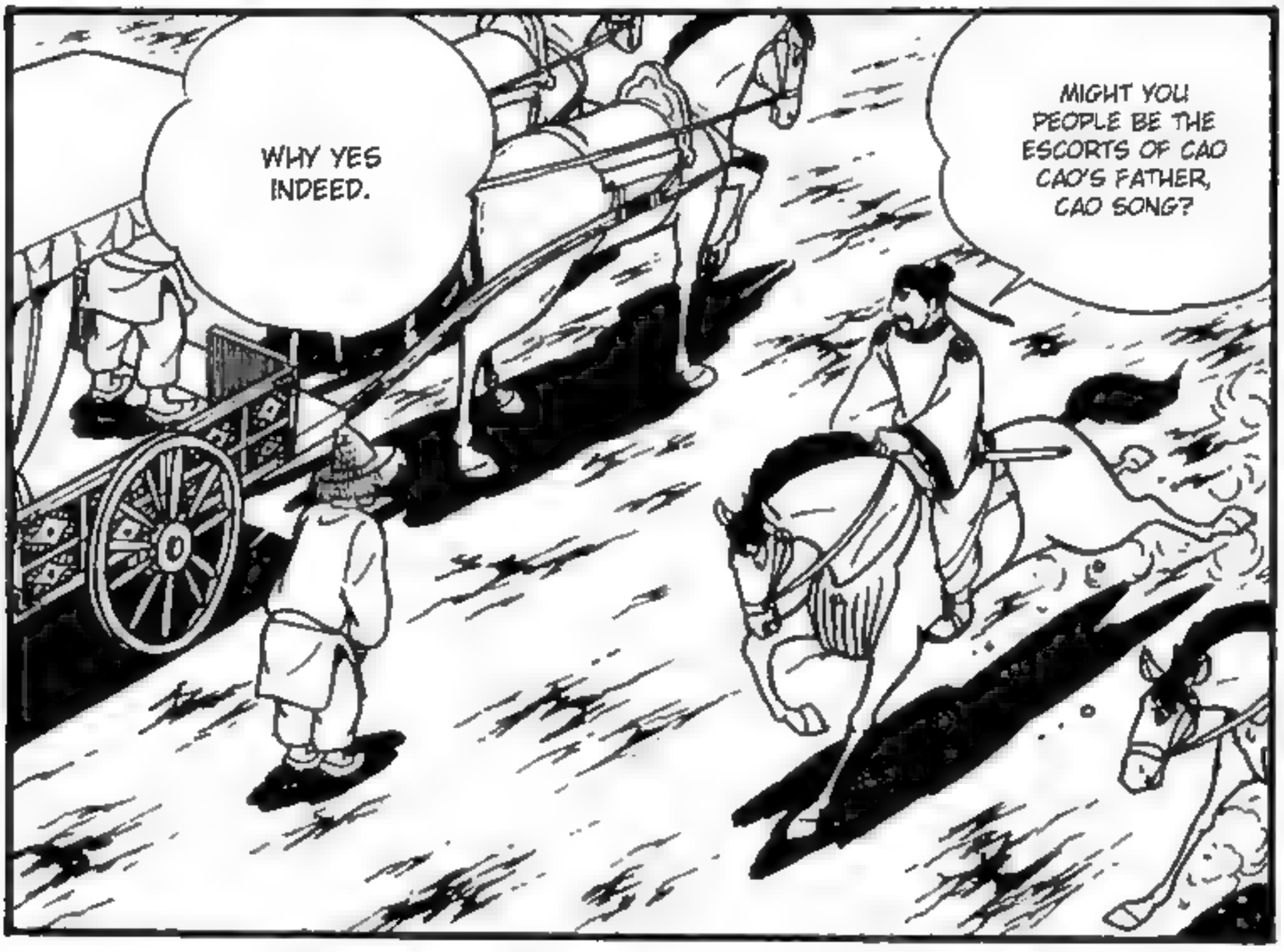
YES, YES.

HOW GOOD IT WOULD BE IF THAT CAME TRUE!

IT SEEMS THAT THE DAY WHEN THE CAOS RULE THIS LAND MAY NOT BE FAR.

HMM?

?

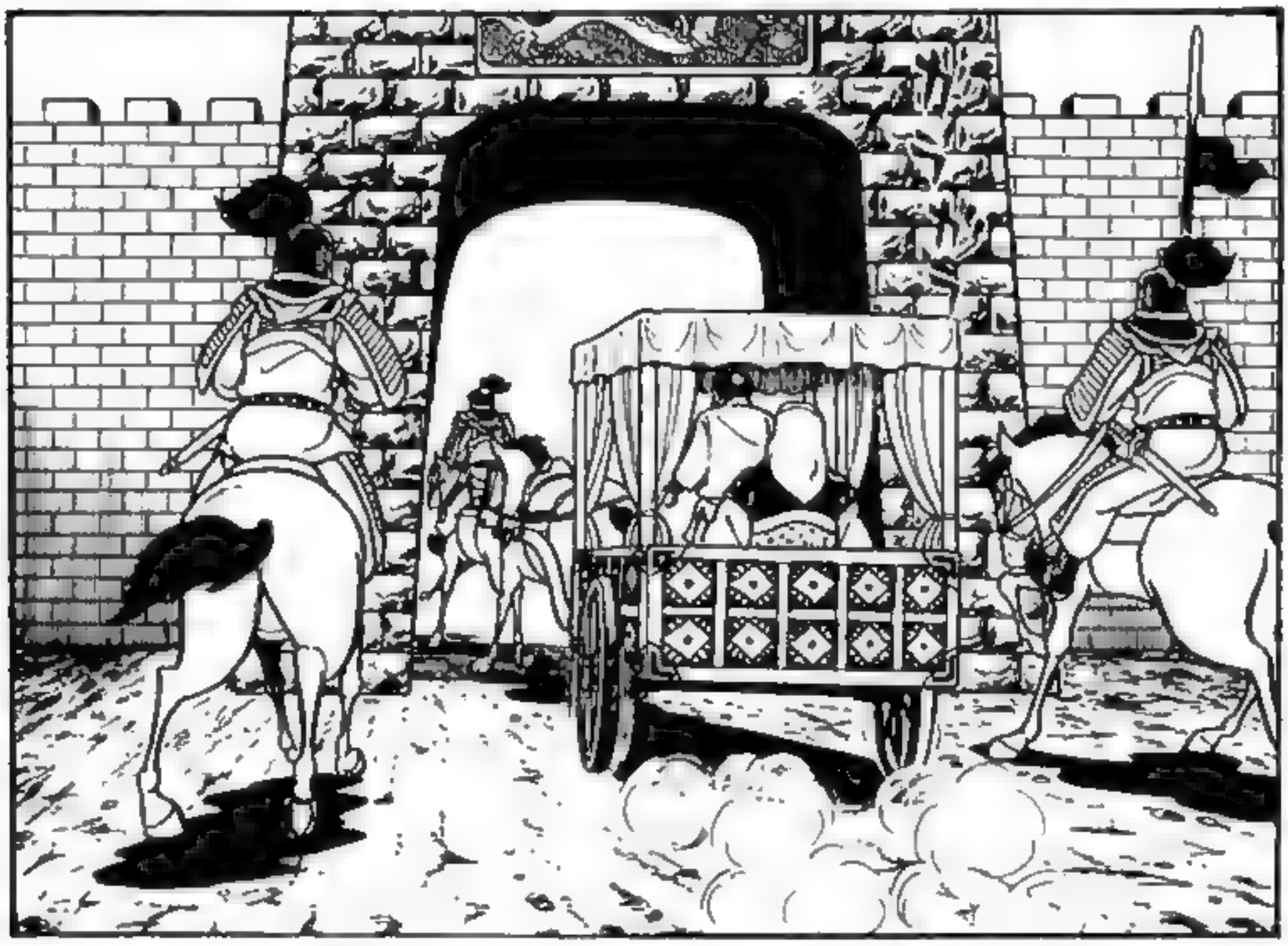

WHY YES INDEED.
MIGHT YOU PEOPLE BE THE ESCORTS OF CAO CAO'S FATHER, CAO SONG?

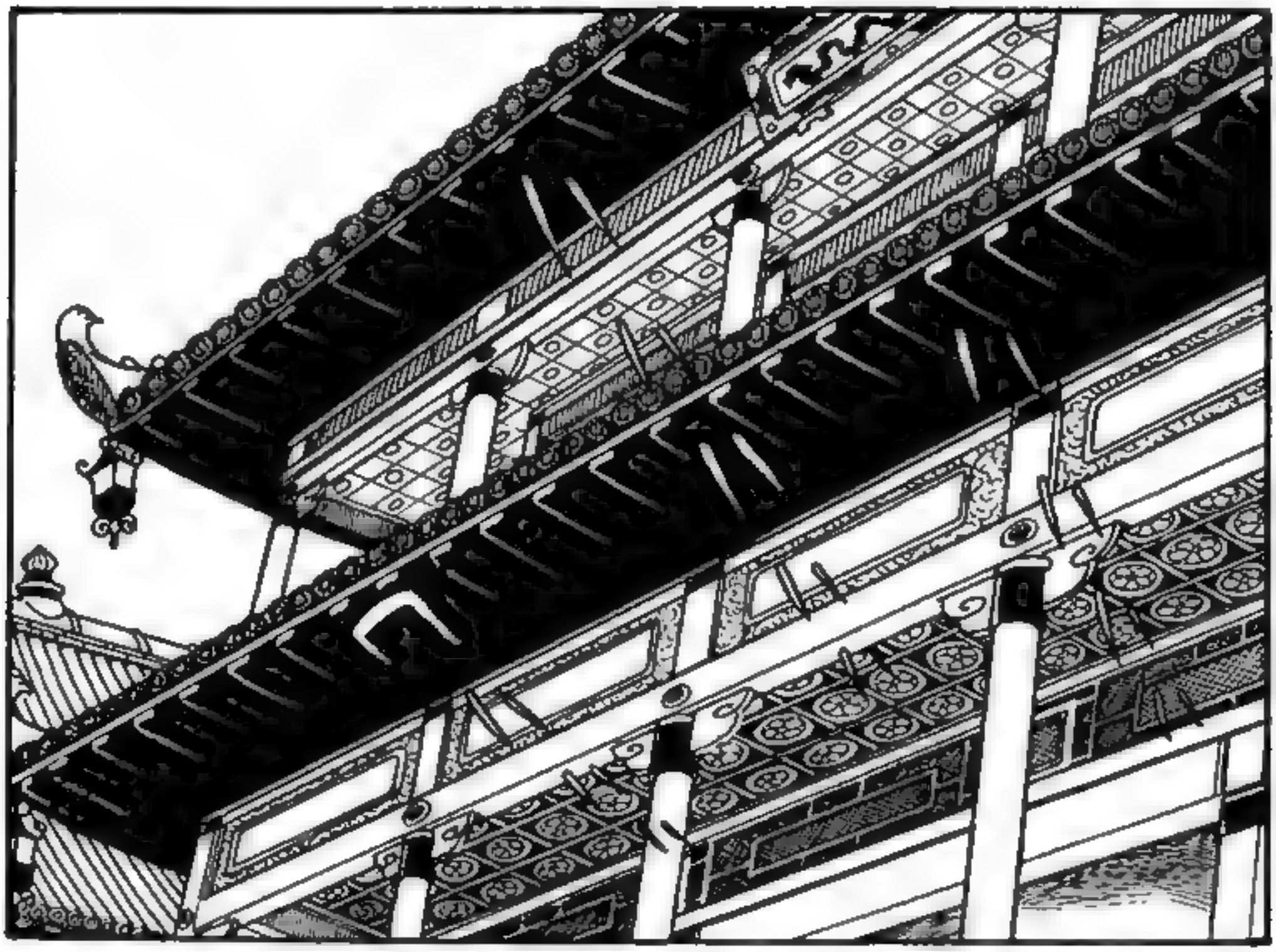
THE GOVERNOR WISHES TO INVITE SIR TO STAY THE NIGHT AT HIS CASTLE.

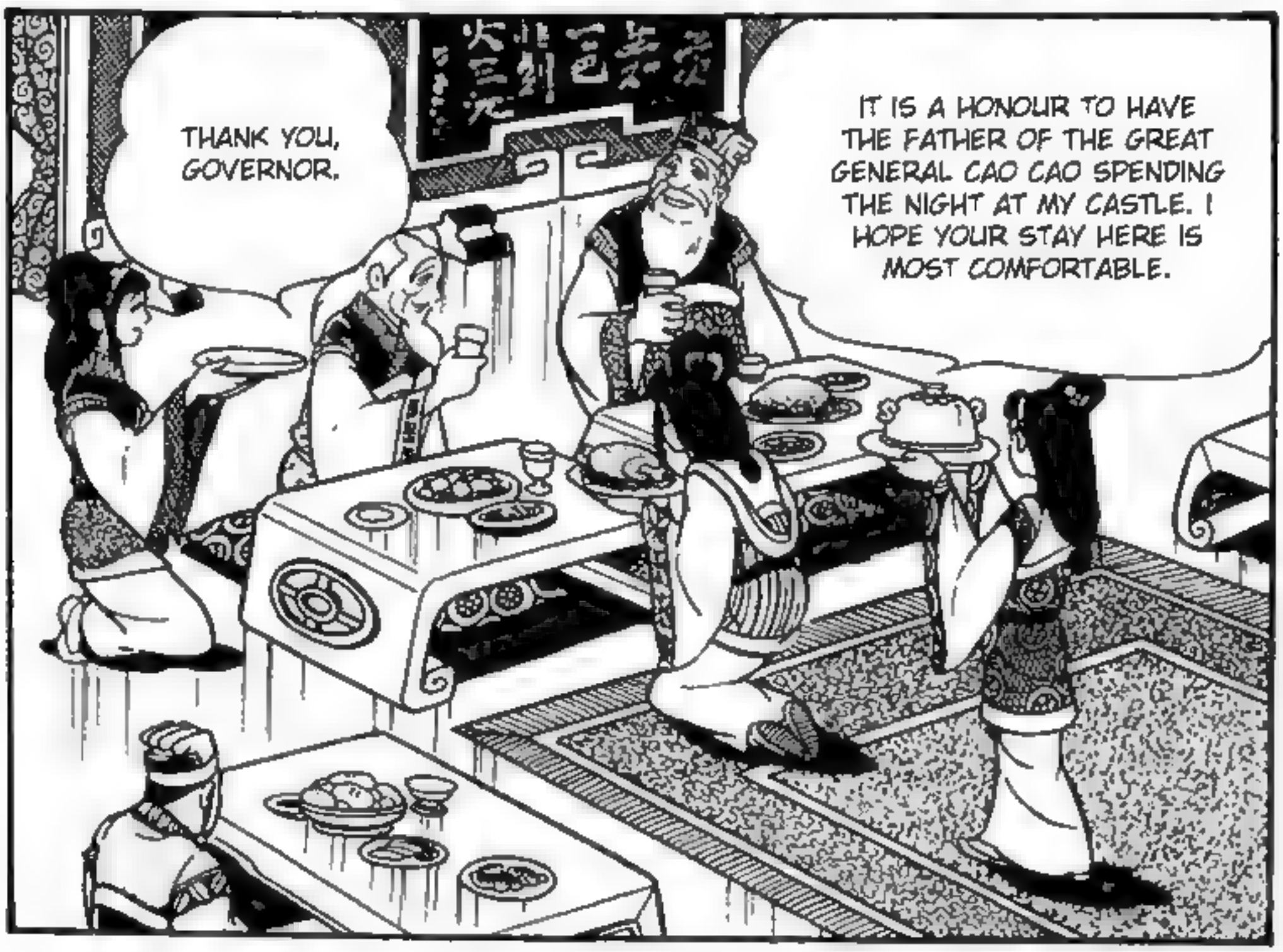
WE ARE RETAINERS OF TAO QIAN, THE GOVERNOR OF THIS REGION.

MEN, FOLLOW THESE SOLDIERS TO THE CASTLE!

AH, WHAT A KIND OFFER! I SHALL GLADLY ACCEPT THE GOVERNOR'S INVITATION.






THANK YOU, GOVERNOR.
IT IS A HONOUR TO HAVE THE FATHER OF THE GREAT GENERAL CAO CAO SPENDING THE NIGHT AT MY CASTLE. I HOPE YOUR STAY HERE IS MOST COMFORTABLE.

HOW PEACEFUL THIS OLD HEART OF MINE WOULD BE, IF I HAD A SON LIKE CAO CAO!
I CANNOT HELP BUT BE JEALOUS.
YOU HAVE RAISED A MOST SPLENDID SON.
TAO QIAN HELD A LAVISH BANQUET TO WELCOME CAO SONG

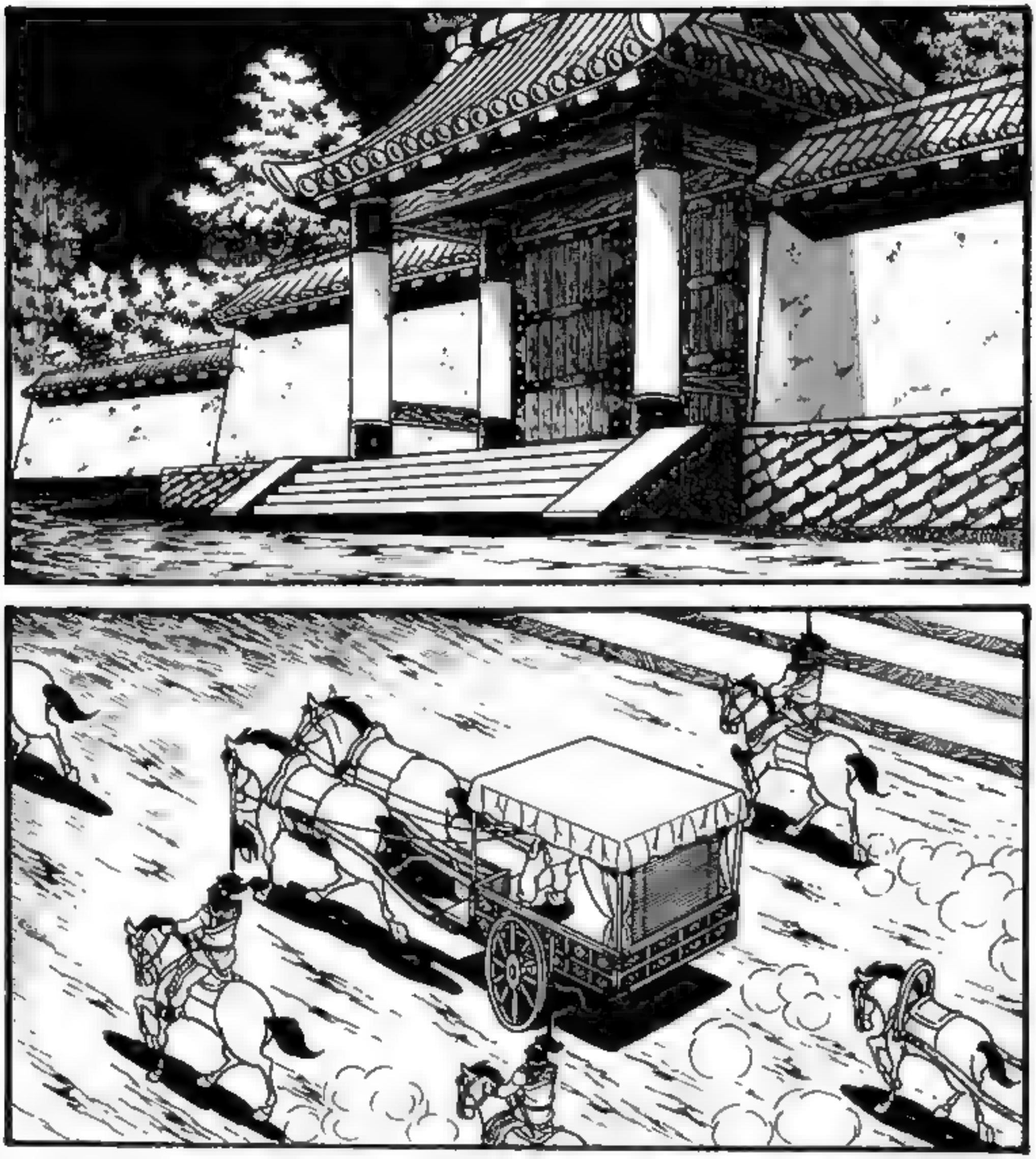
THE NEXT DAY, TAO QIAN SENT HIS SUBORDINATE ZHANG KAI AND 500 SOLDIERS TO SAFELY ESCORT CAO SONG FOR THE REST OF HIS JOURNEY.

AND IT'S NOT LIKE WE'LL GET ANY THANKS FOR ESCORTING HIM ALL THE WAY TO YANZHOU EITHER.

DOES THAT OLD GEEZER THINK OF HIMSELF AS AN EMPEROR OR SOMETHING!?

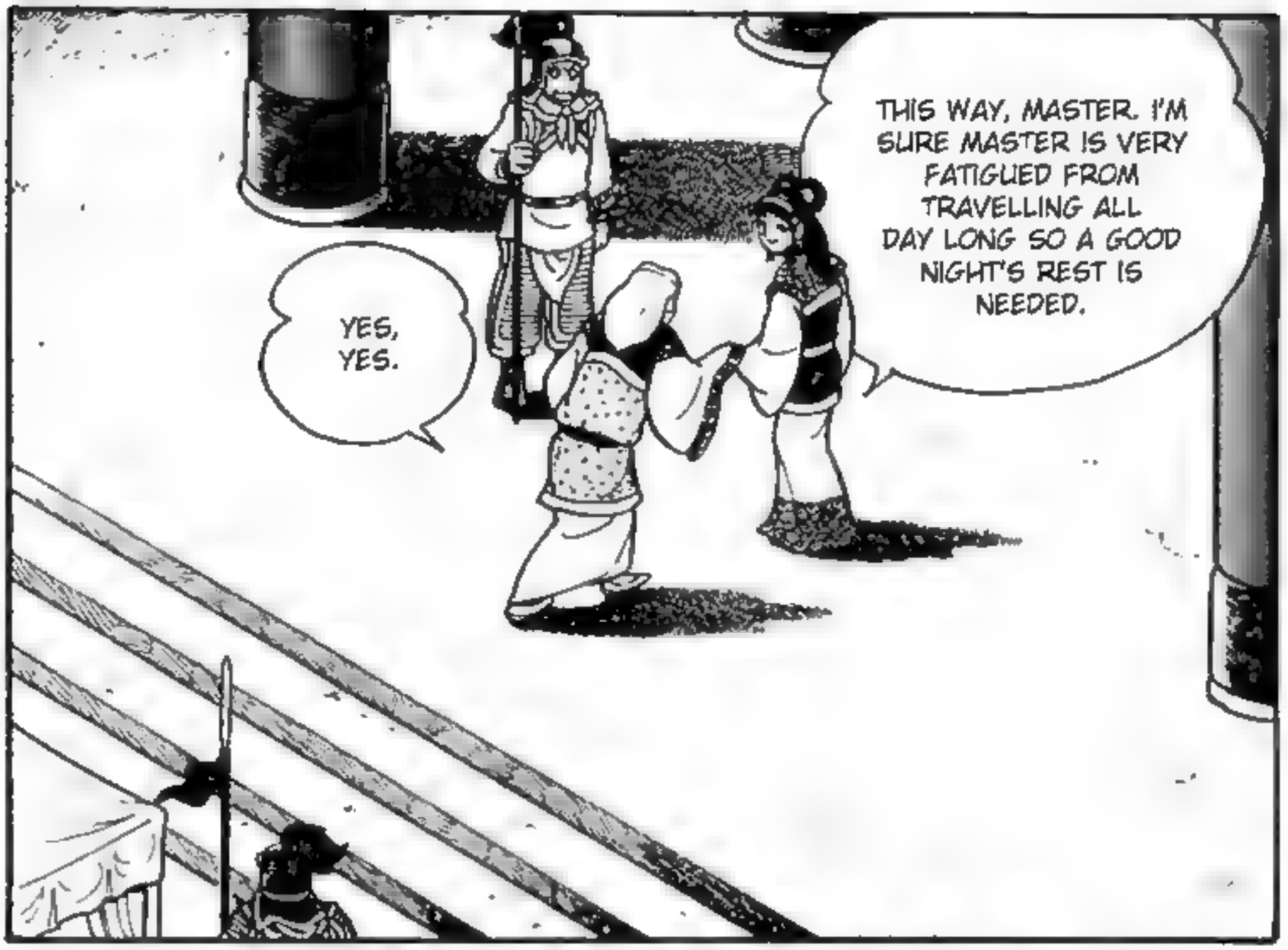
PSH, HOW BORING.

DAMN GEEZER, RECEIVING A HORDE OF TREASURES FROM THE GOVERNOR JUST FOR BEING THE FATHER OF THAT GENERAL CAO CAO...!



WHATEVER.
THAT SO?

ALRIGHT MEN, WE SHALL SPEND THE NIGHT HERE AT THIS TEMPLE.


THIS WAY, MASTER. I'M SURE MASTER IS VERY FATIGUED FROM TRAVELLING ALL DAY LONG SO A GOOD NIGHT'S REST IS NEEDED.
YES, YES.

THEY EXPECT TO ESCORT THAT GEEZER ALL THE WAY TO YANZHOU BY FEEDING US THIS CRAP!?

WHAT A PATHETIC MEAL!

YOU KNOW, I CAN HEAR YOUR CHATTER EVEN FROM OUTSIDE.

AH, GOOD EVENING CAPTAIN.

SEEMS LIKE YOU MEN ARE ALL VERY DISSATISFIED.

AND WHAT OF IT, CAPTAIN?

SOME GOOD TIMES BACK THEN, EH? WE USED TO BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING WE WANTED!

OF COURSE WE ARE. WE USED TO BE PART OF THE YELLOW SCARVES BUT WERE FORCED TO WORK UNDER GOVERNOR TAO QIAN ONCE THE REBELLION WAS SUPPRESSED.

THEN WHAT WOULD YOU MEN SAY TO A CHANCE OF BECOMING RELIVING THOSE DAYS ONCE MORE...?

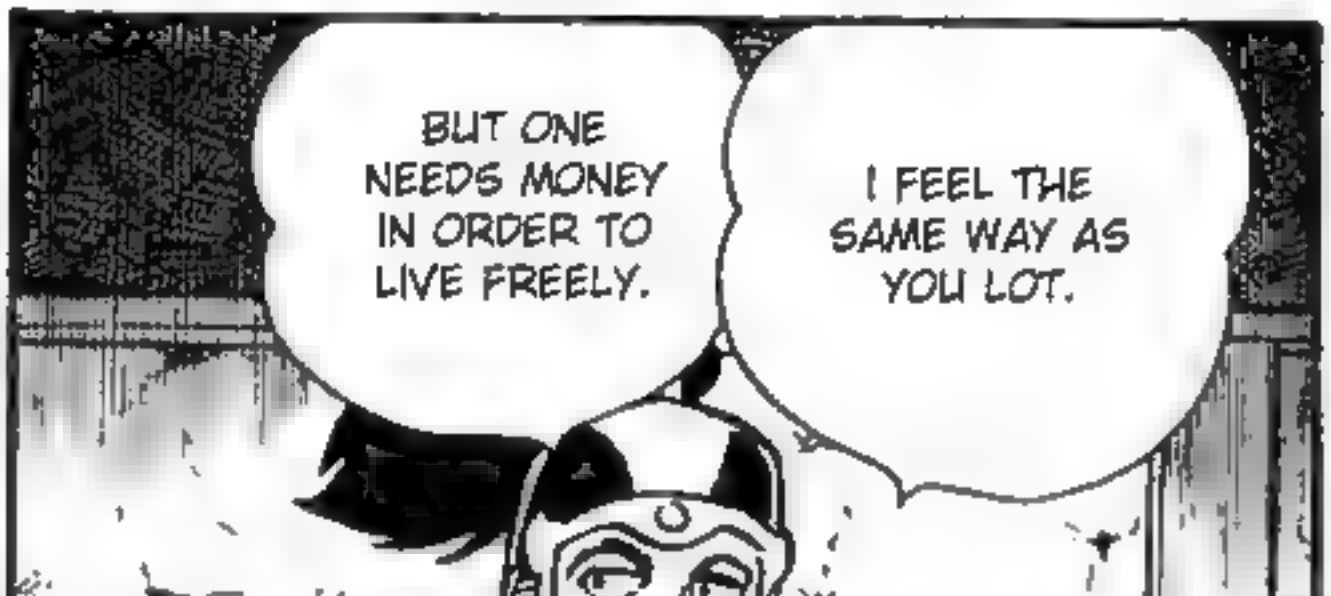
BUT LOOK AT OUR LIVES NOW. MEAGER PAY, CRAPPY MEALS, AND RULES, RULES, RULES!

WHAT?

NOT QUITE.

IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT NOW.

AND THAT MONEY LIES BEFORE OUR VERY EYES WITH THAT SENILE FOOL.


BUT ONE NEEDS MONEY IN ORDER TO LIVE FREELY.
I FEEL THE SAME WAY AS YOU LOT.

GIVEN HOW MUCH MONEY THAT GEEZER IS CARRYING, WE COULD LIVE THE REST OF OUR LIVES HOW WE LIKE!

MAKE SURE TO KILL EVERYONE.

NOW!

WHAT?

HUH?

WHAT?
MASTER, MASTER! TAO QIAN'S SOL-DIERS ARE...!

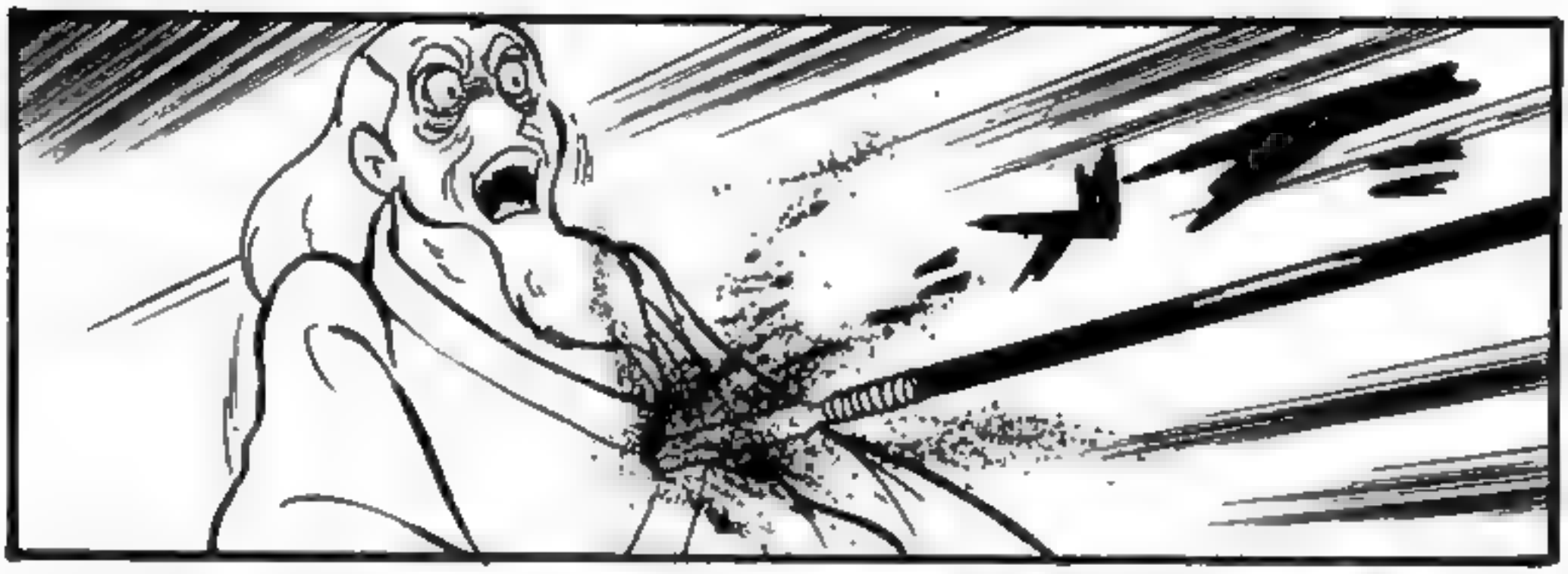
IT MEANS THAT WE'RE TIRED OF THIS LIFE.

W-WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS!?

Y-YOU THINK MY SON WOULD LET YOU GET AWAY WITH KILLING ME!?
BUT WITH YOUR MONEY, WE CAN GO BACK TO LIVING THE GOOD OLD DAYS!

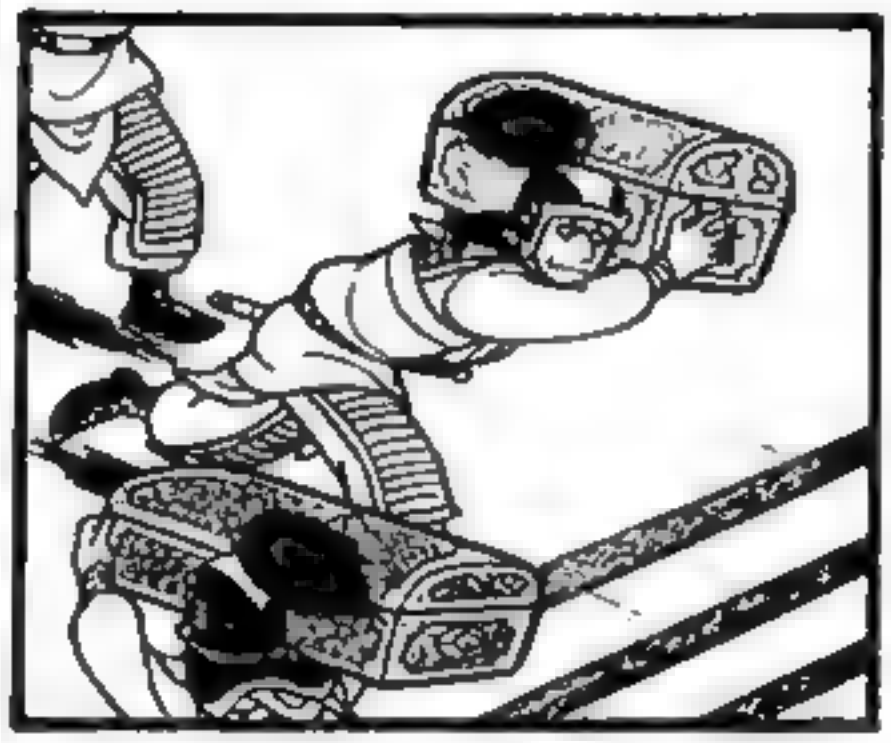
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY MORE REGRETS LEFT AFTER LIVING THE GOOD LIFE FOR SO LONG!!!

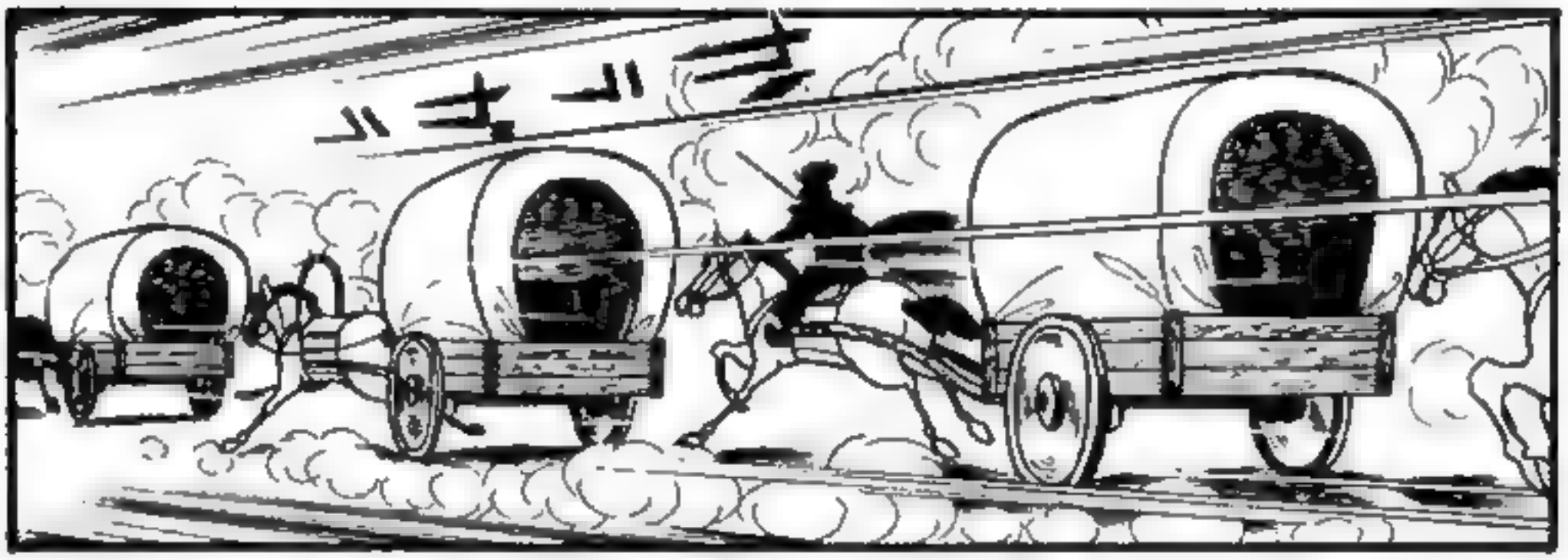
HA! WE'LL HAVE LONG HID OUR-SELVES IN A SAFE PLACE BY THE TIME YOUR SON FINDS OUT!



HA
HA
HA!

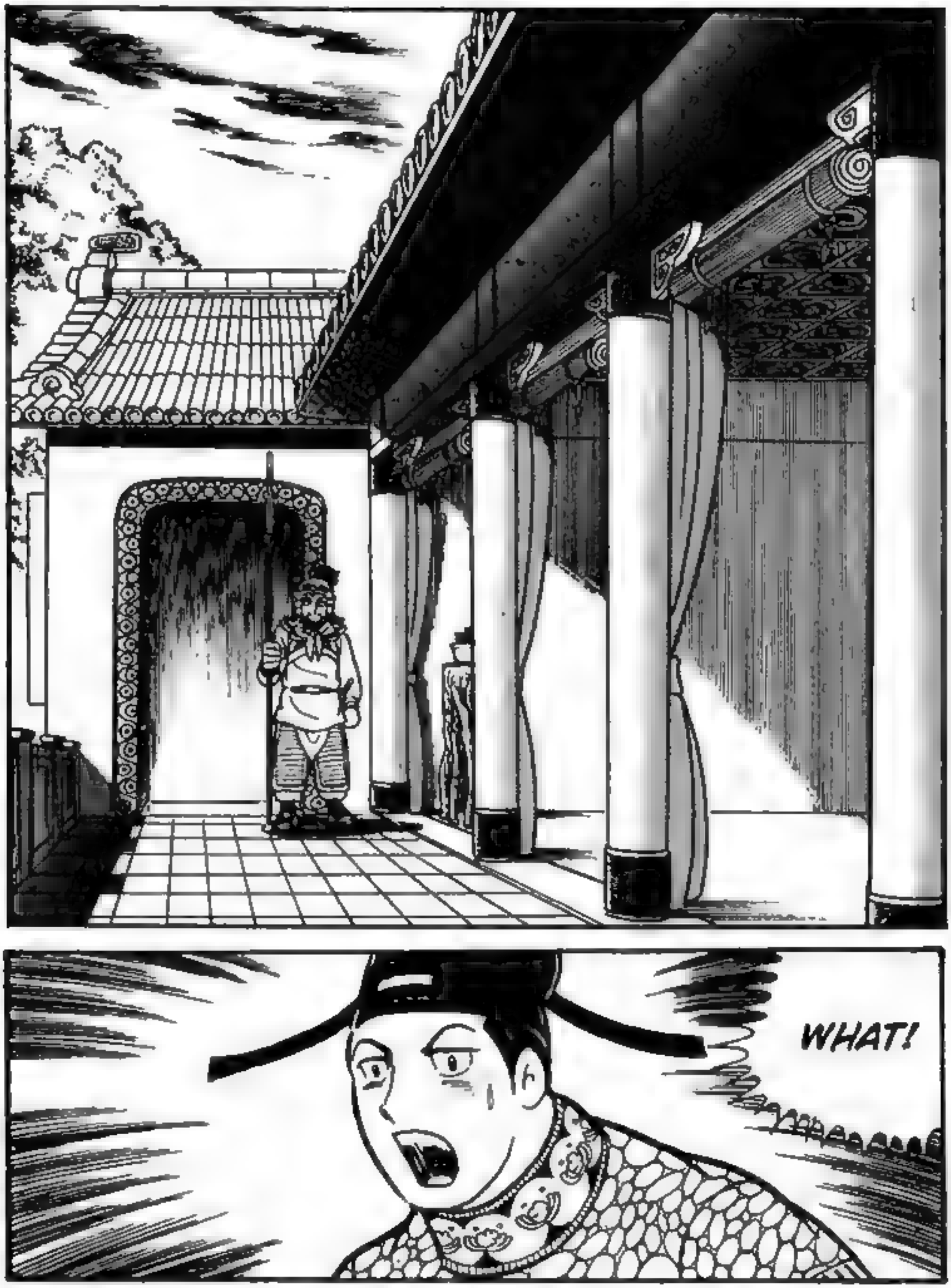
TAKE
ALL THE
TREA-
SURE!





CAO SONG DIED BEFORE BLING ABLE TO SEE HIS SON WHO HAD AT LAST FOUND FAME AND SUCCESS. THIS EVENT WOULD SOON TRIGGER ANOTHER SERIES OF TURBULENT EVENTS.

CALL FOR ARMISTICE



YES...

MY FATHER WAS KILLED BY TAO QIAN'S SOLDIERS!?

ENDED UP KILLING MY FATHER...!?

Y-YOU MEAN THAT MY DUTIFUL ACT AS A SON INVITING HIS FATHER TO LIVE WITH HIM...

I CANNOT FORGIVE TAO QIAN!

MOBILIZE MY ARMY AT ONCE!

IS IT NOT OBVIOUS? I SHALL ATTACK XUZHOU'S GOVERNOR TAO QIAN TO AVENGE MY FATHER'S DEATH.

F-FOR WHAT PURPOSE, SIR?

I UNDERSTAND MY LORD'S FEELINGS WELL BUT I'M AFRAID THAT THIS MAY BE A RATHER UNWISE DECISION.

THE PEOPLE WILL SUPPORT A WAR WAGED FOR THE SAKE OF THEIR COUNTRY. BUT TO WAGE WAR FOR ONE'S PERSONAL EMOTIONS SHALL ONLY LEAD TO DISORDER. I BEG MY LORD TO RECONSIDER.

UNWISE? AND WHY DO YOU SAY THAT!?

YOU CAN ONLY SAY THAT BECAUSE IT WASN'T YOUR FATHER WHO WAS KILLED!!!

MAKE THE PREPARA-TIONS TO DEPART IMMEDIATELY!

I SHAN'T REST UNTIL I TAKE TAO QIAN'S HEAD!

AND SO CAO CAO LED HIS ARMY AND MARCHED ONWARDS TO YANZHOU.

THEIR FLAGS READ "VENGEANCE."

AND THEIR TOTAL FORCES NUMBERED ROUGHLY A MILLION

SIR, CAO CAO HAS MOBILIZED AN ARMY OF OVER A MILLION TO ATTACK YANZHOU!

XUZHOU

AS EXPECTED OF CAO CAO TO MOBILIZE A TREMENDOUS FORCE...

MY GOOD INTENTIONS ENDED UP BRINGING ME NOTHING BUT MISFORTUNE.

ALTHOUGH I WISHED ONLY TO BECOME GOOD FRIENDS WITH HIM BY WELCOMING HIS FATHER,

BUT THERE IS NO USE REGRETTING IT NOW.

I SHOULD HAVE PAID CLOSER ATTENTION TO ZHANG KAI'S CHARACTER.

I HAVE DECIDED TO GIVE MYSELF TO CAO CAO IN EXCHANGE FOR THE REST OF XUZHOU'S CITIZENS TO BE LEFT UNHARMED.

IF THAT IS HOW SIR FEELS, WE SHALL FOLLOW SIR TO DEATH AS WELL!

N-NO, MY LORD!

WE WOULD MUCH RATHER FIGHT UNTIL THE VERY END FOR THE SAKE OF OUR LORD.

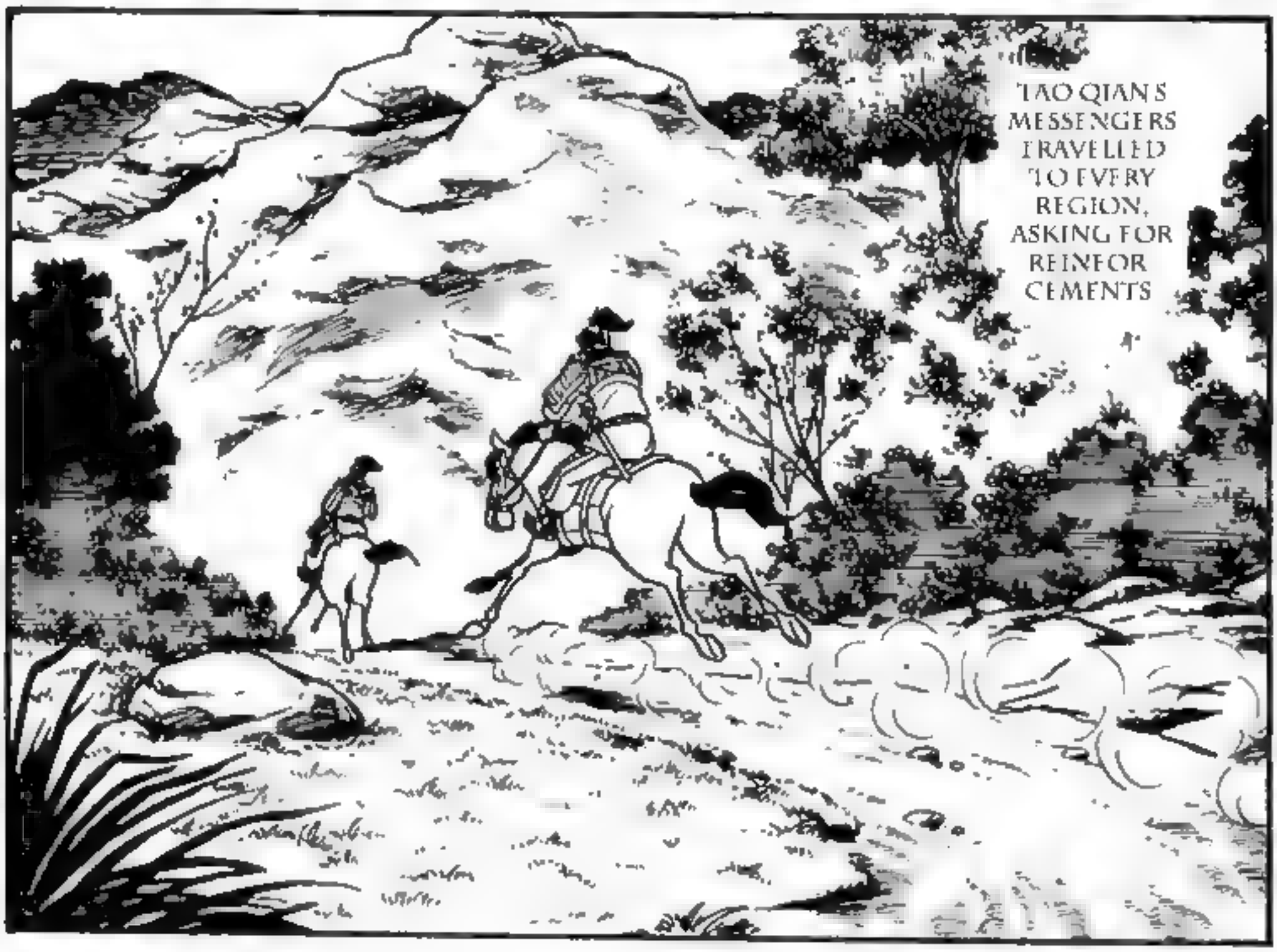
THOUGH IT IS TRUE WE DO NOT STAND MUCH CHANCE, I CANNOT BEAR TO LET MY LORD SACRIFICE HIMSELF SO EASILY.

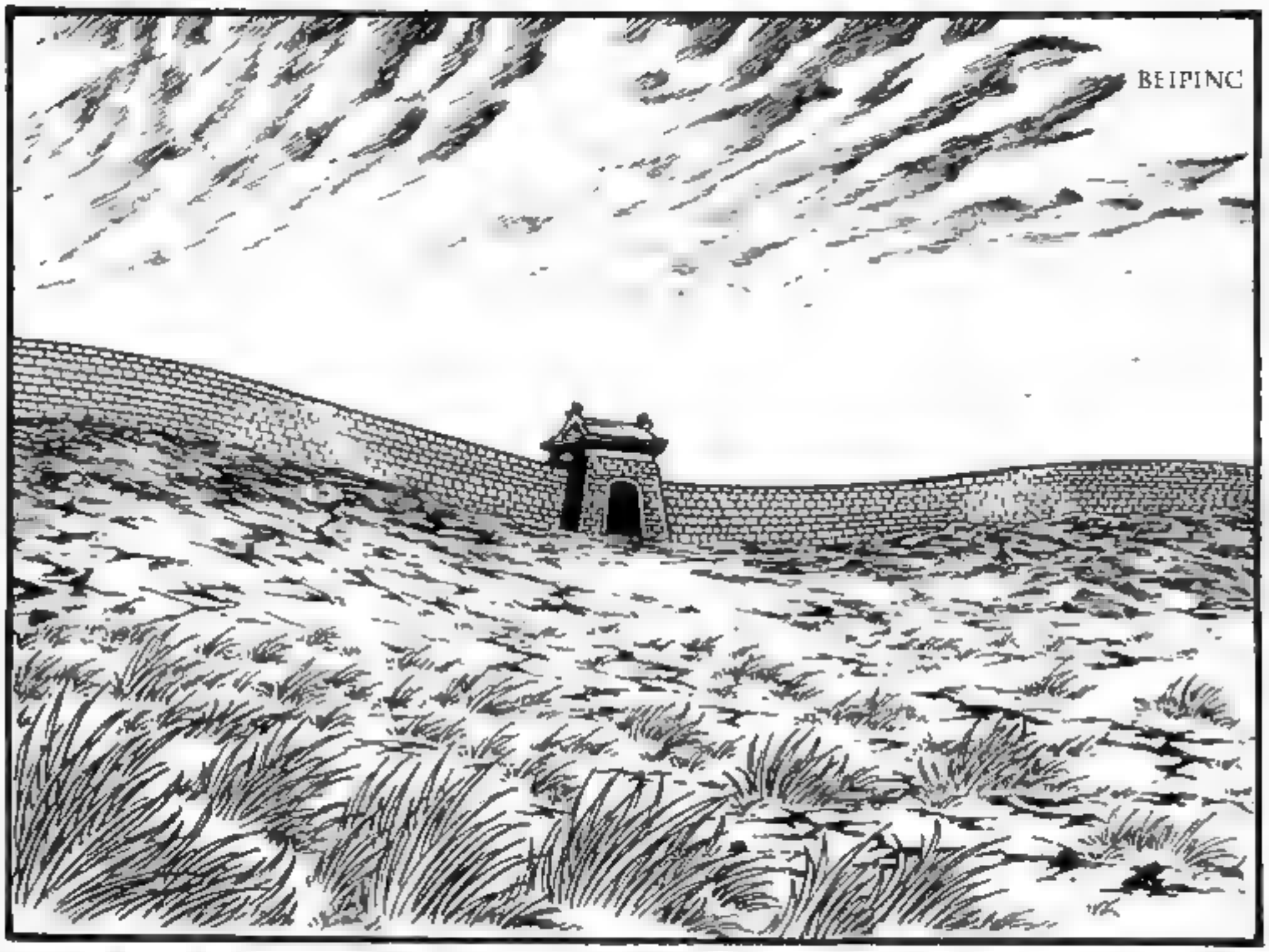
I THANK YOU GENTLEMEN FOR THE KIND WORDS, BUT WHEN I THINK OF ALL THE UNNECCESSARY BLOOD THAT IS TO BE SHED...

YES, THAT WOULD BE THE BEST DECISION.

I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BEST TO CALL FOR AID FROM OTHER REGIONS OF THE LAND.

SINCE YOU GENTLEMEN FEEL SO STRONGLY ABOUT THIS, I SHAN'T GIVE UP HOPE AS WELL. I SHALL SEND LETTERS REQUESTING FOR HELP IMMEDIATELY.


TAO QIAN'S MESSENGERS TRAVELLED TO EVERY REGION, ASKING FOR REINFOR CEMENTS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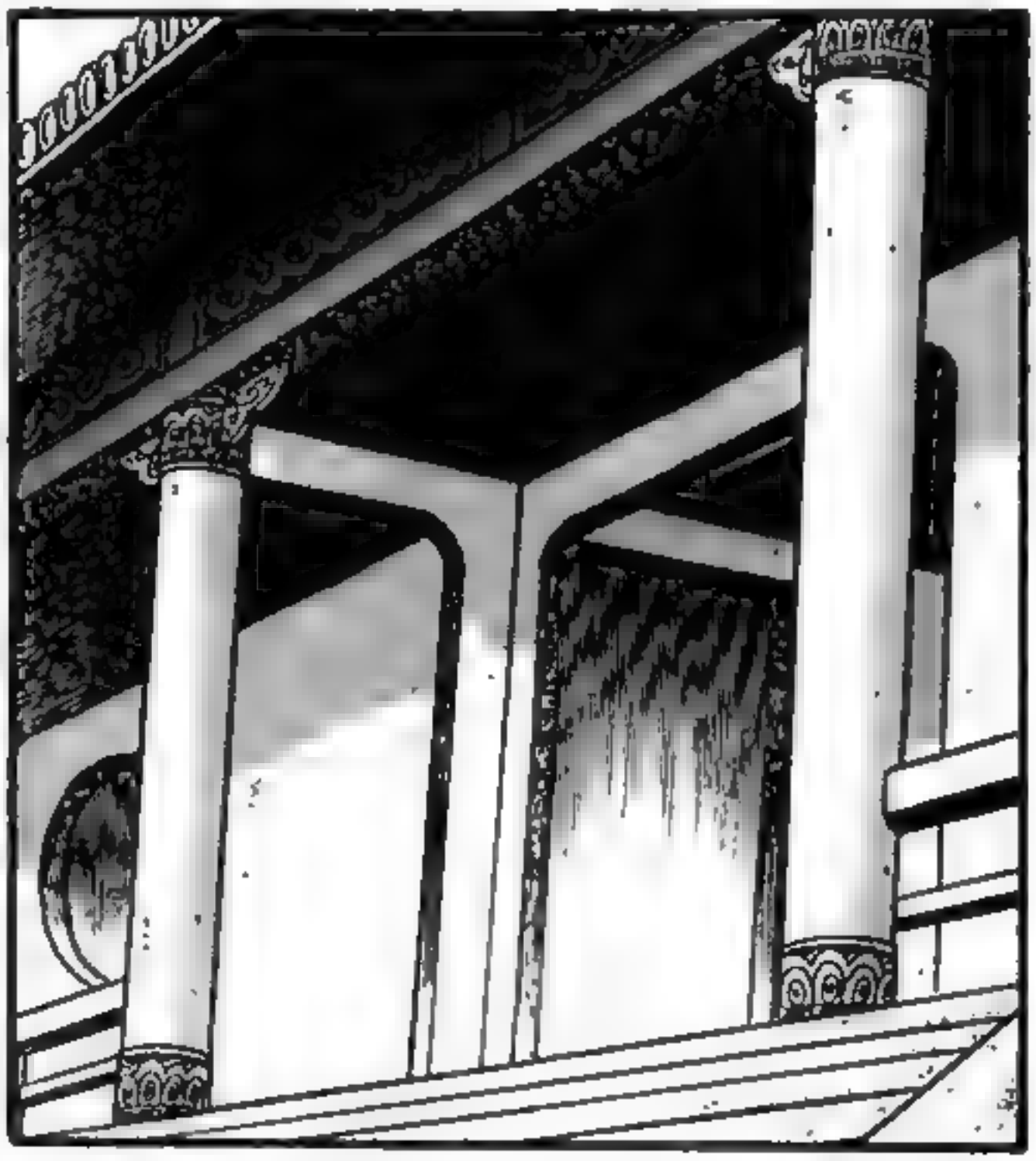


AH, XUANDE. WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE TODAY?

GOOD DAY, SIR.

SO YOU'VE HEARD ALREADY.

AH, I SEE.

I RECEIVED WORD THAT TAO QIAN OF XUZHOU WAS UNDER ATTACK BY CAO CAO'S ARMY.

WHAT?

YES, AND I WISHED TO BORROW SOME ADDITIONAL TROOPS SO THAT I CAN RUSH TO XUZHOU'S AID...

BUT I HAVE HEARD THAT TAO QIAN IS A KIND LORD, RESPECTED BY BOTH HIS RETAINERS AND THE CITIZENS OF XUZHOU.

NO, SIR.

BUT WHY? DO YOU BEAR A GRUDGE AGAINST CAO CAO OR HAPPEN TO BE INDEBTED TO TAO QIAN?

AND?

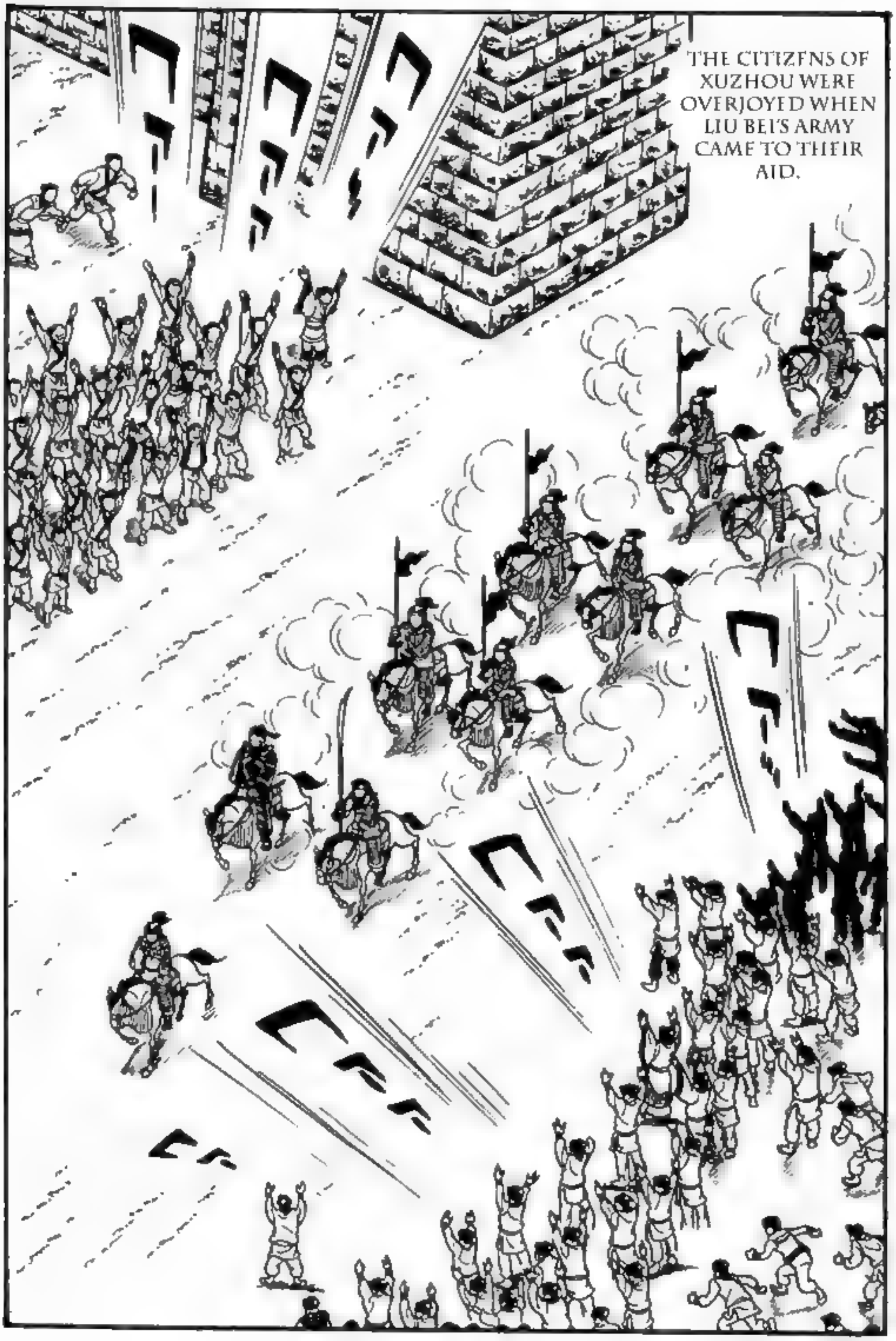
I CANNOT JUST STAND BY AND LET TAO QIAN DIE. IF NOT FOR PEOPLE LIKE HIM, THESE LANDS WILL FOREVER REMAIN IN CHAOS. AND ALSO...

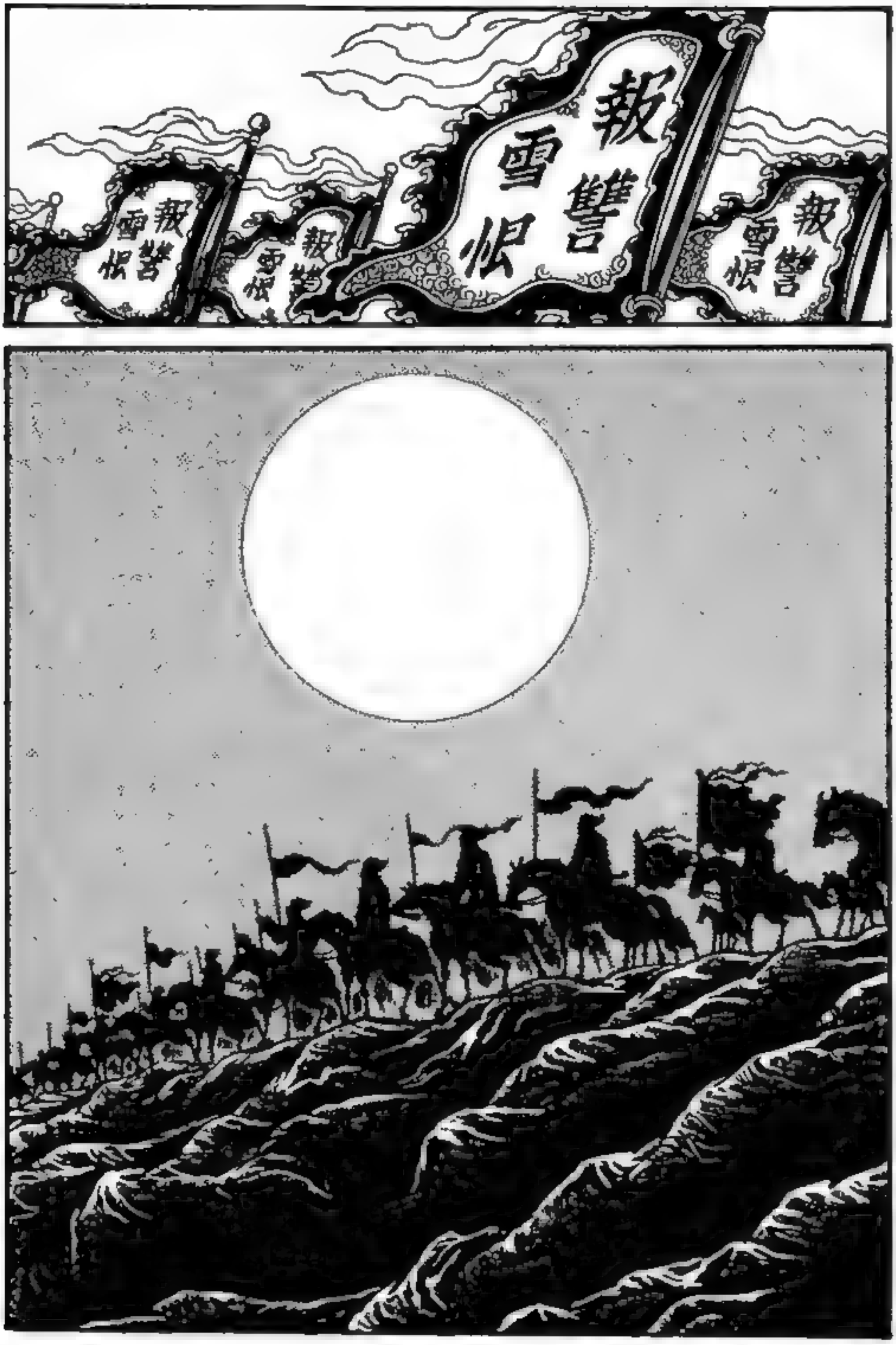
VERY WELL, I SHALL RESPECT YOUR DECISION.

HMM...

I WISH TO REMIND THE PEOPLE OF THESE TROUBLED TIMES WHAT THE WORD 'RIGHTEOUSNESS' MEANS.

GONGSUN ZAN LENT 2000 SOLDIERS TO LIU BEI.
THUS ALLOWING LIU BEI TO LEAD AN ARMY OF 5000 TO XUZHOU.


THE CITIZENS OF XUZHOU WERE OVERJOYED WHEN LIU BEI'S ARMY CAME TO THEIR AID.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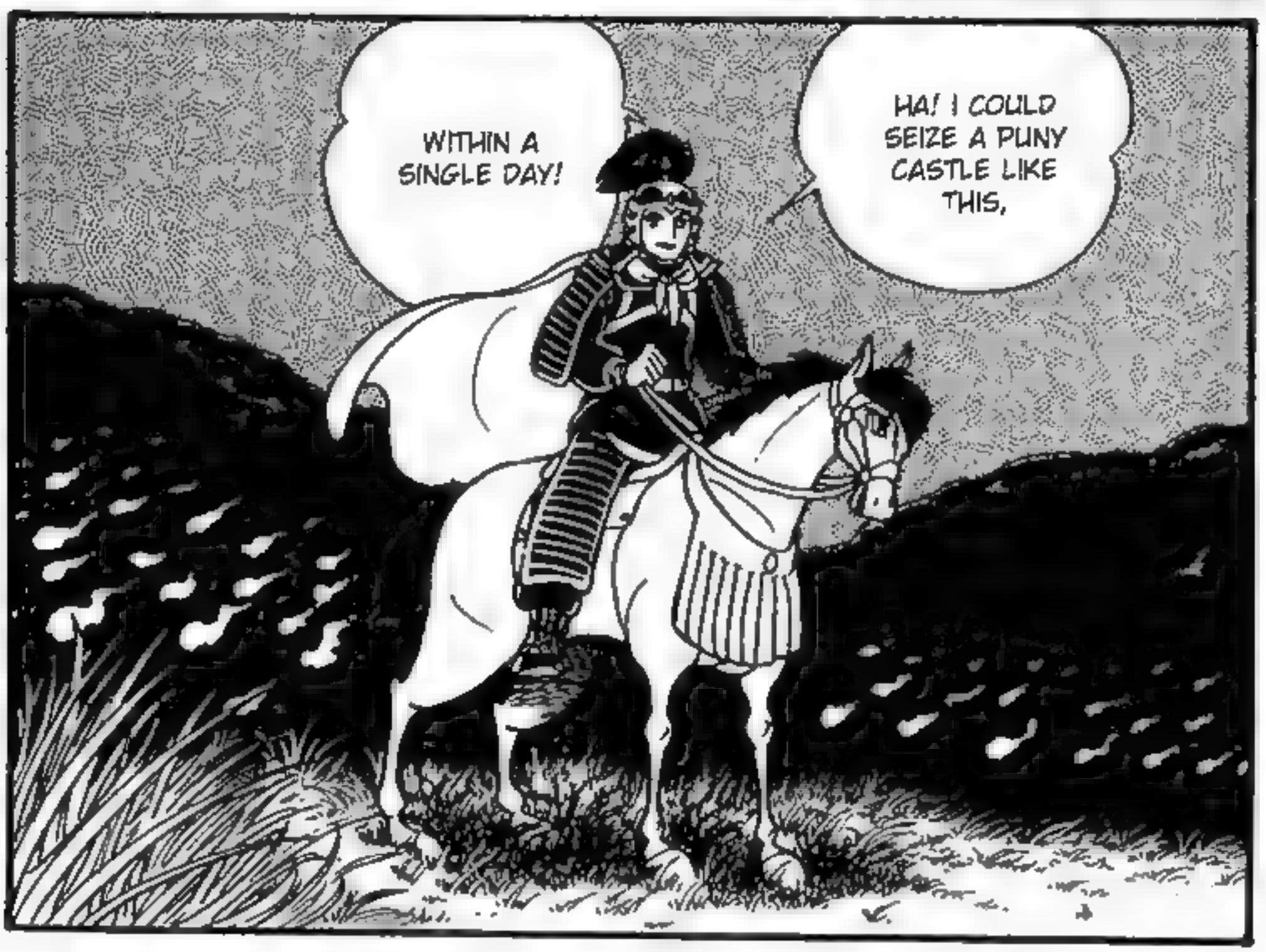

WITHIN A SINGLE DAY!
HA! I COULD SEIZE A PUNY CASTLE LIKE THIS,

AS EXPECTED OF AN ENORMOUS ARMY NUMBERING A MILLION... THINGS WILL BE VERY TOUGH INDEED.

I SHALL GLADLY TAKE THEM ALL ON.

BATTLES AREN'T WON BY HEAD-COUNT ALONE, BROTHER.

CAO CAO IS A RATIONAL MAN. IT MIGHT BE BEST TO TRY TALKING TO HIM FIRST.

IT IS NOT WISE FOR ONE TO SHED BLOOD OUT OF PERSONAL FEELINGS ALONE.

NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS NO HARM IN TRYING.

THEN WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FIGHT.

I DOUBT HE WOULD BACK OFF NOW AFTER COMING THIS FAR AND MOBILIZING HIS ENTIRE ARMY.

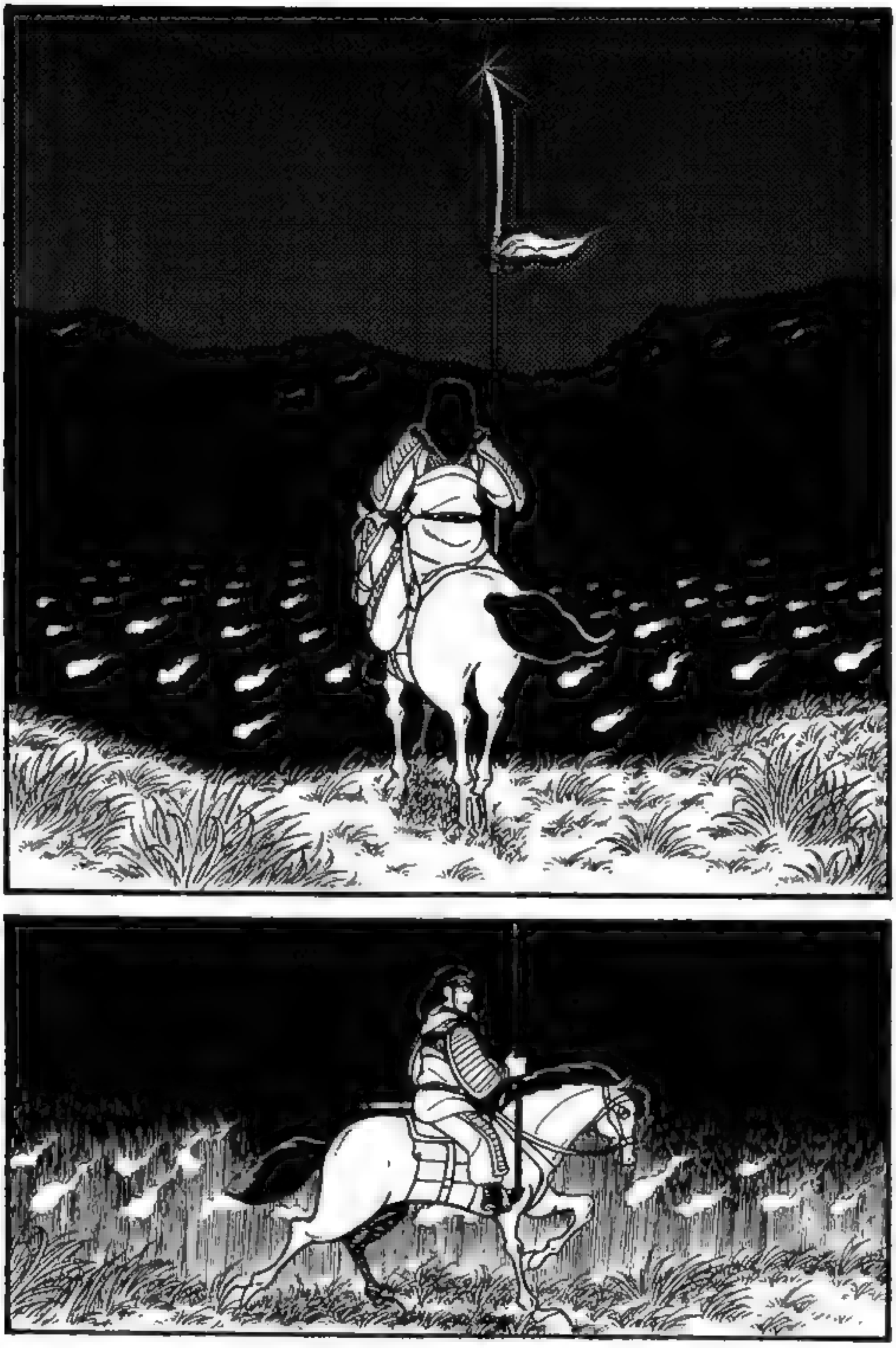
SURE THING, BROTHER.

ZHANG FEI, GO DELIVER THIS LETTER.

ZHANG FEI! YOU MUST BEHAVE COURTEOUSLY AS A PROPER MESSENGER SHOULD.

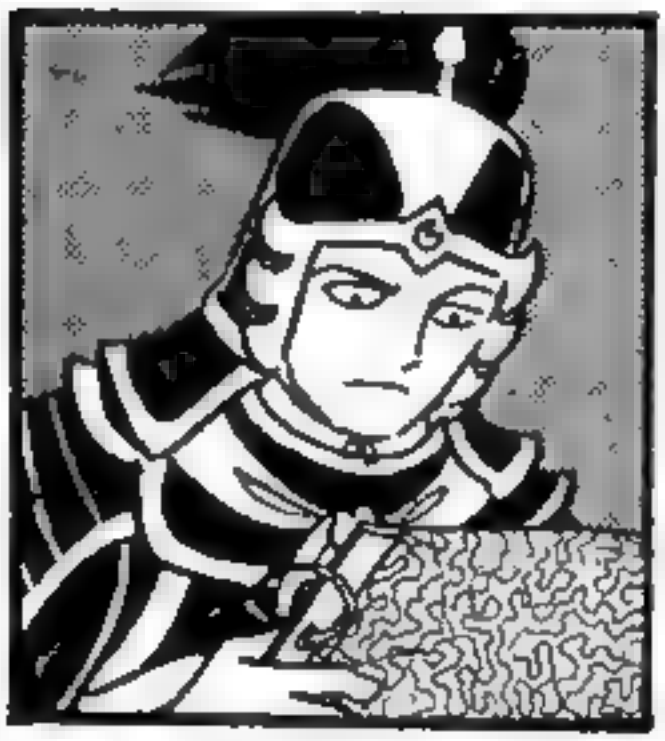
I'LL KNOCK SOME SENSE INTO THEM IF THEY DON'T COMPLY.

WHAT A SIGHT. FROM ALL THE TORCHES LIT UP FROM THEIR CAMPS, THE FIELD LOOKS LIKE A SEA OF FIRE...



HALT! IDENTIFY YOURSELF!

I AM A MESSENGER SENT BY LIU BEI XUANDE HERE TO DELIVER A LETTER TO GENERAL CAO CAO!



YES, SIR. HERE IS THE LETTER.
WHAT? A LETTER FROM XUANDE?

IT SEEMS LIKE A CALL FOR ARMISTICE...
WHAT DOES IT SAY, MY LORD?

DOES LIU BEI REALLY THINK HE CAN ORDER ME AROUND SO EASILY!?

SIR MUST FIRST FOCUS ON THE REBELS TERRORIZING THE CAPITAL AND LEAVE PERSONAL GRUDGES FOR LATER...!?

I WANT THE MESSENGER'S HEAD TO BE CUT OFF AND SENT BACK TO LIU BEI AS MY REPLY!

?

MY LORD, IT IS AN EMERGENCY!

YANZHOU IS UNDER SIEGE BY LU BU'S ARMY!

WHAT IS IT!?

I REGRET TO INFORM MY LORD THAT YANZHOU* AND PUYANG ARE ALREADY UNDER LU BU'S CONTROL.

WHAT!?

I WAS A FOOL FOR HAVING LEFT YANZHOU DEFENSE-LESS...!

AHHH...!

WHAT SHALL WE DO ABOUT XUZHOU?

YES, I AGREE.

MY LORD, I ADVISE WE RETREAT IMME-DIATELY LEST WE RISK LOSING ALL OUR TERRITORIES.

*ALL THE PROVINCES (PLACES THAT END WITH -ZHOU) HAD A CAPITAL CITY OF THE SAME NAME. SO YANZHOU CAN ALSO REFER TO THE CAPITAL CITY OF THE PROVINCE YANZHOU. LU BU IS CURRENTLY ATTACKING THE PROVINCE OF YANZHOU AND HE HAS ALREADY CONQUERED THE CITIES YANZHOU AND PUYANG

ALSO, CAO CAO IS THE GOVERNOR OF THE PROVINCE YANZHOU AT THIS TIME.

I WILL PRETEND TO ACCEPT LIU BEI'S PROPOSAL FOR THE TIME BEING AND RETREAT.

THEY ARE MOST LIKELY UNAWARE OF MY PRESENT SITUATION.

I RECOGNIZE YOU FROM BACK IN THE DAYS OF THE ALLIANCE TO BRING DOWN DONG ZHUO.

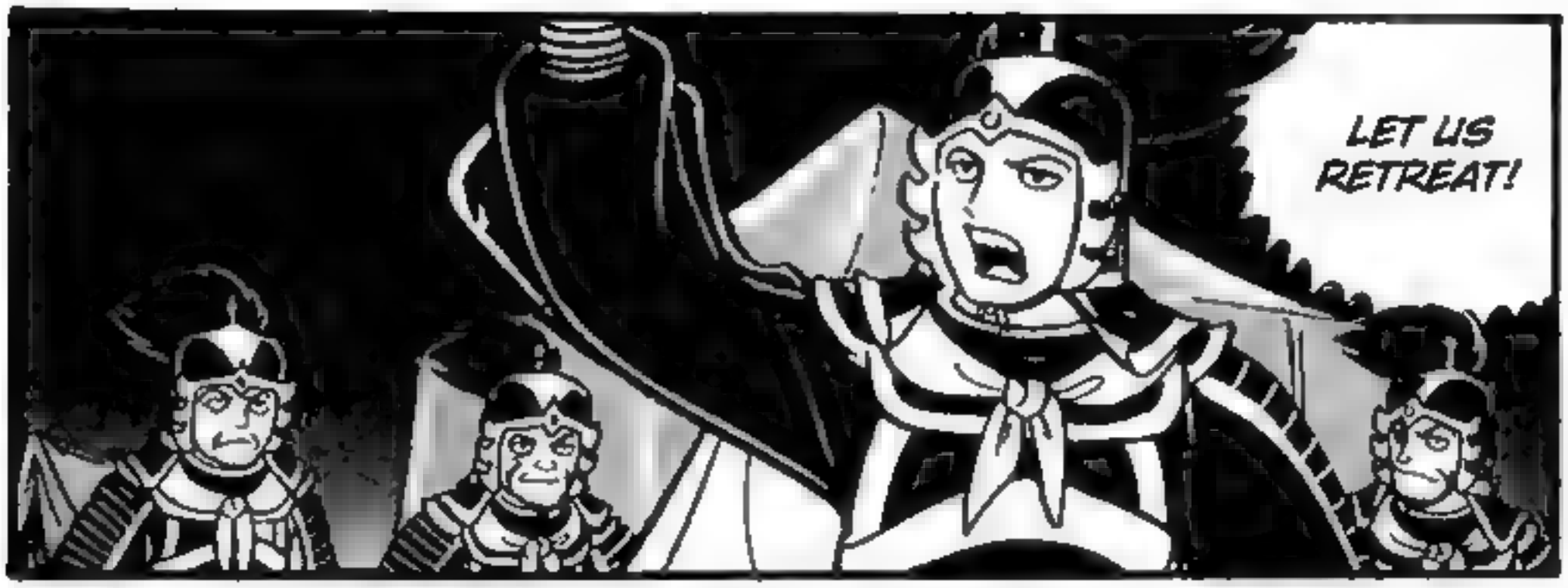
AH, YOU MUST BE THE MESSENGER SENT BY LIU BEI.

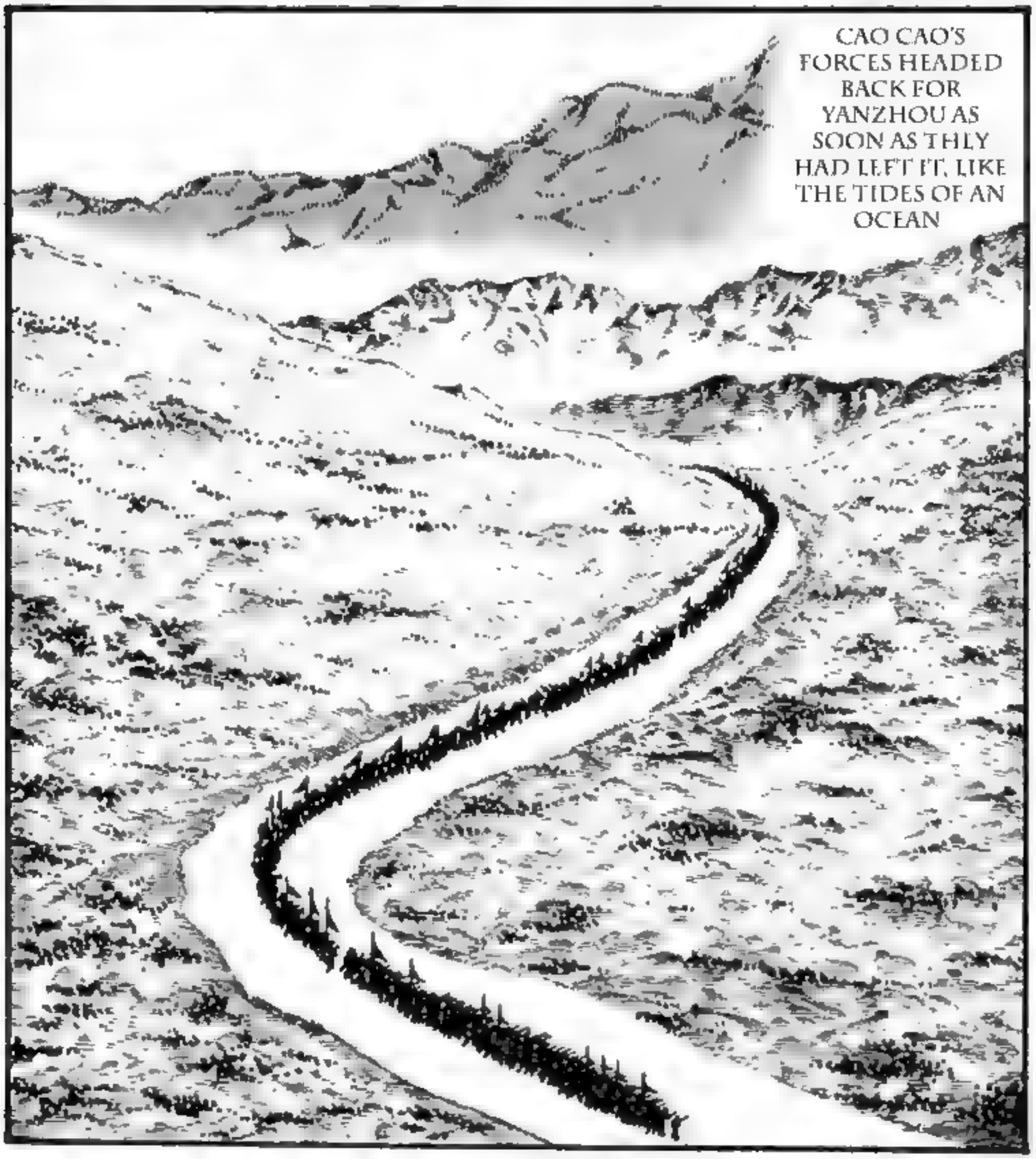
TELL LIU BEI THAT I WILL AGREE TO THE ARMISTICE AND PULL BACK.

YOU JUST NEVER KNOW HOW THINGS WILL TURN OUT...

THAT WAS A MOST UNEXPECTED REPLY BUT I SHALL REPORT TO MY LORD NONETHELESS.

NOW I NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT BEING PURSUED...


LET US RETREAT!


CAO CAO'S FORCES HEADED BACK FOR YANZHOU AS SOON AS THLY HAD LEFT IT, LIKE THE TIDES OF AN OCEAN

AFTER KILLING DONG ZHUO BUT LOSING CHANG AN TO DONG ZHUO'S ARMY.

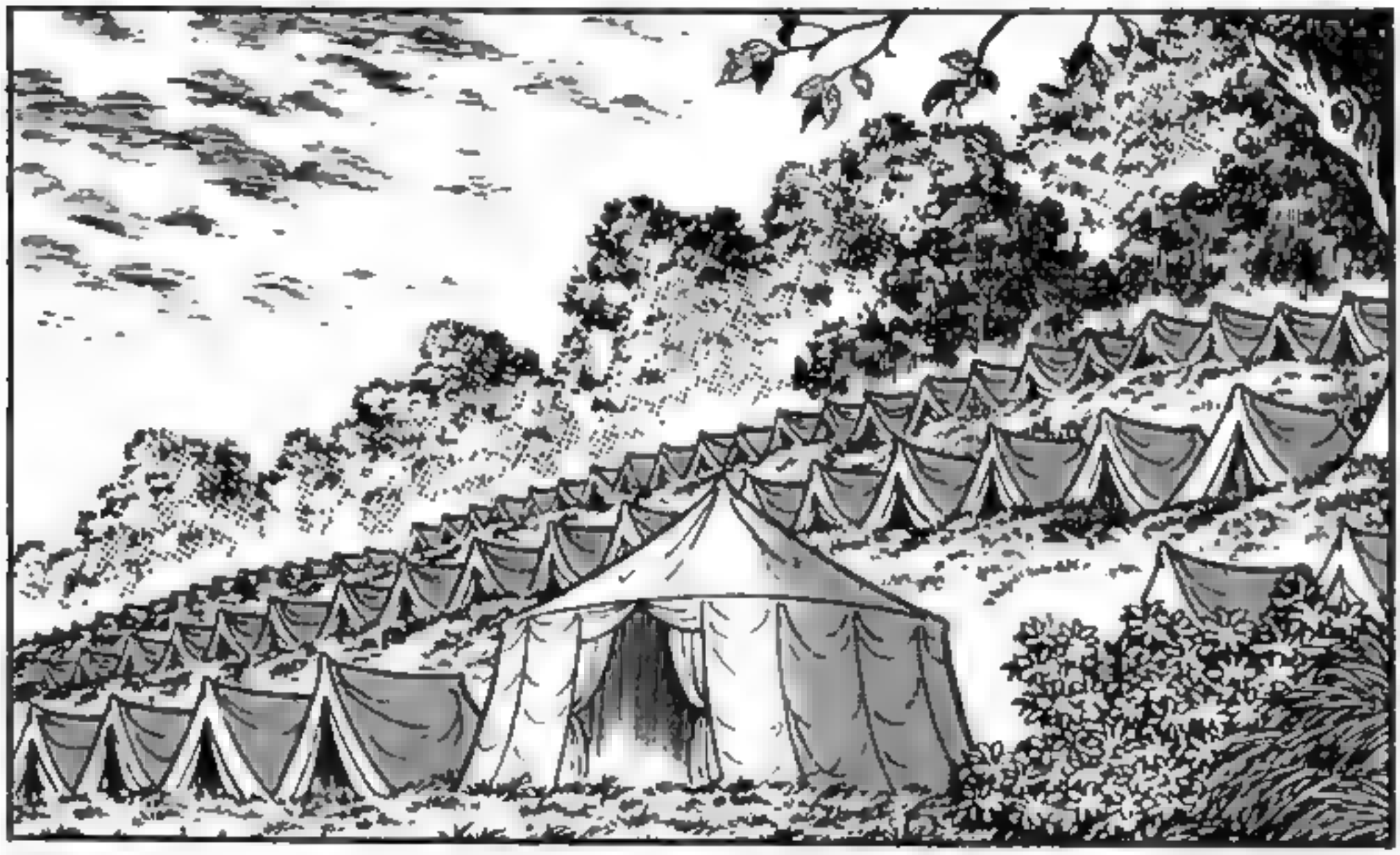
IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN HIS ARMY, HE NEEDED A TERRITORY OF HIS OWN MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE

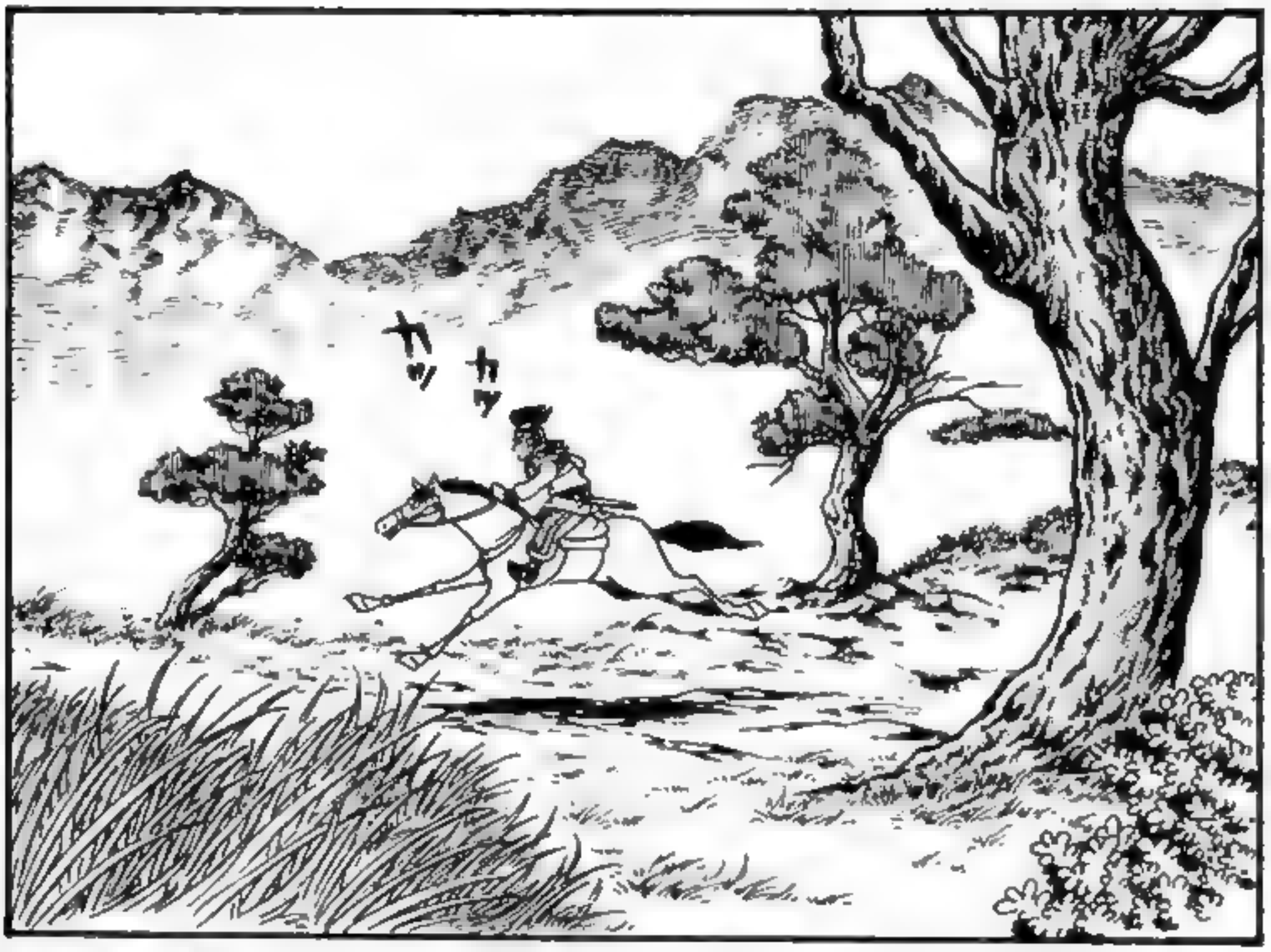
LU BU HAD BECOME A GENERAL WITH NO TERRITORY

HIS WISH WAS GRANTED WHEN HE LEARNED THAT CAO CAO HAD TAKEN HIS ARMY OUT FROM XUZHOU

BEING LEFT PRACTICALLY DEFENSELESS, YANZHOU STOOD LITTLE CHANCE BEFORE LU BU'S ARMY
AS SUCH IT WAS EXPECTED THAT LU BU'S ARMY MET VICTORY AFTER VICTORY IN THEIR INVASION OF YANZHOU

THE MIGHTY DIAN WEI





GENERAL
LU BU!

IS THAT SO?

CAO CAO'S FORCES ARE HEADED THIS WAY, SIR!
WHAT IS IT?

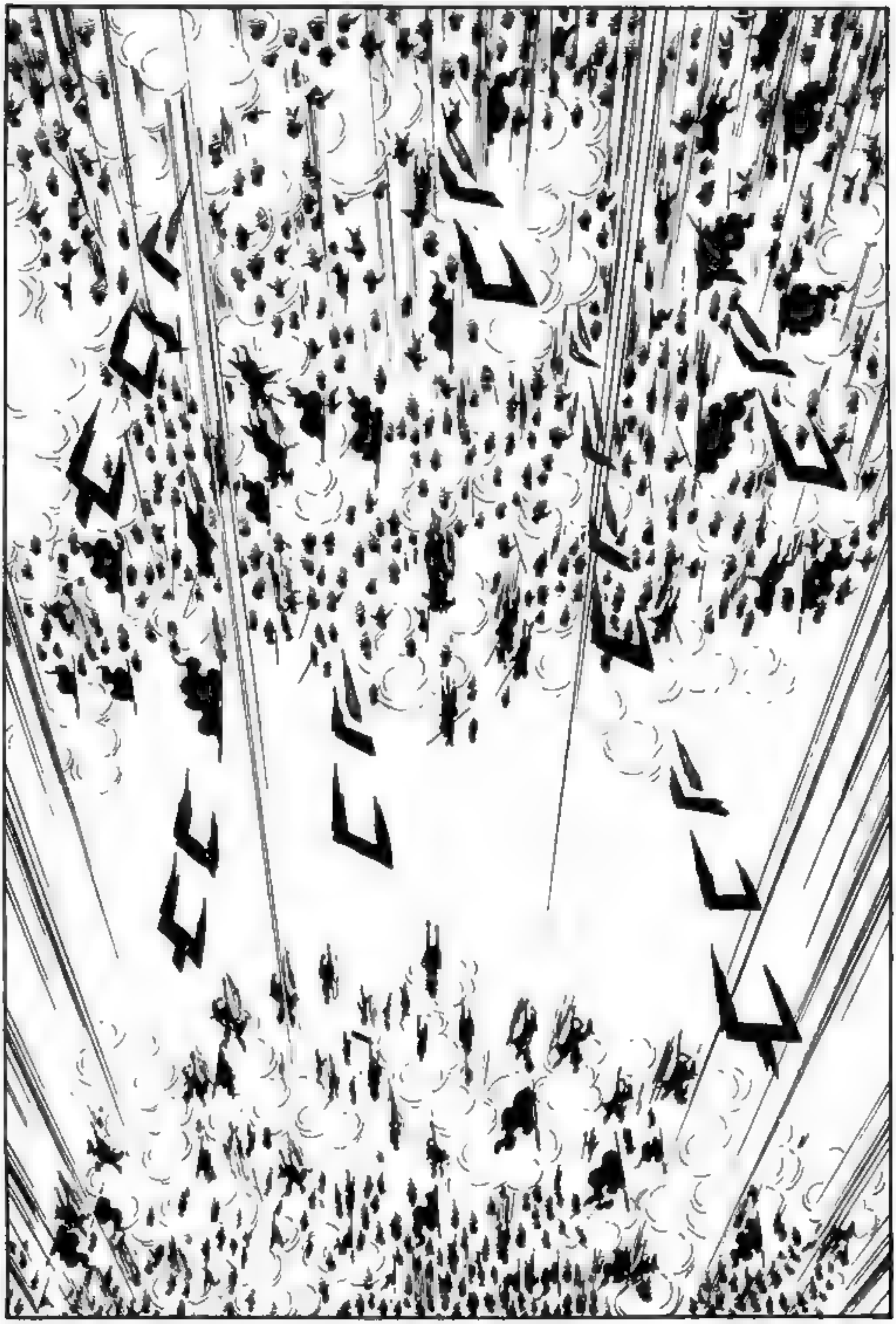
THIS PROVINCE IS NOW MINE.

HAHA, BUT IT IS TOO LATE NOW, CAO CAO.

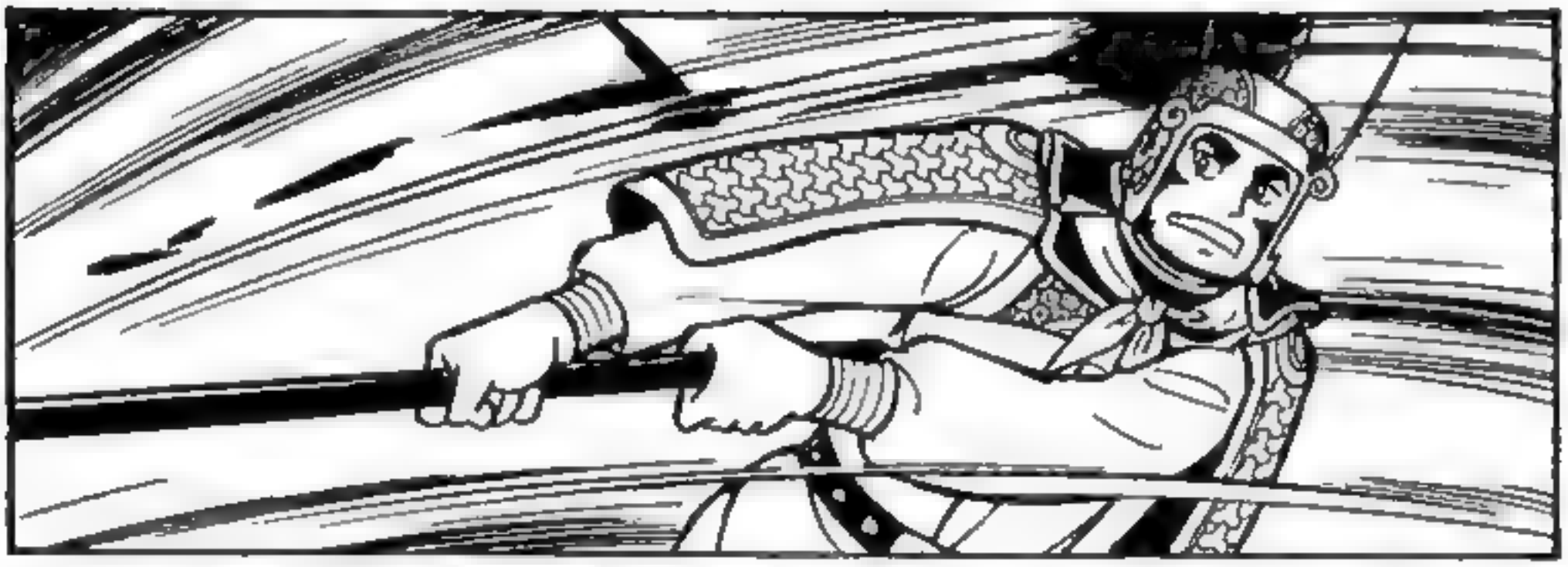
I SEE...

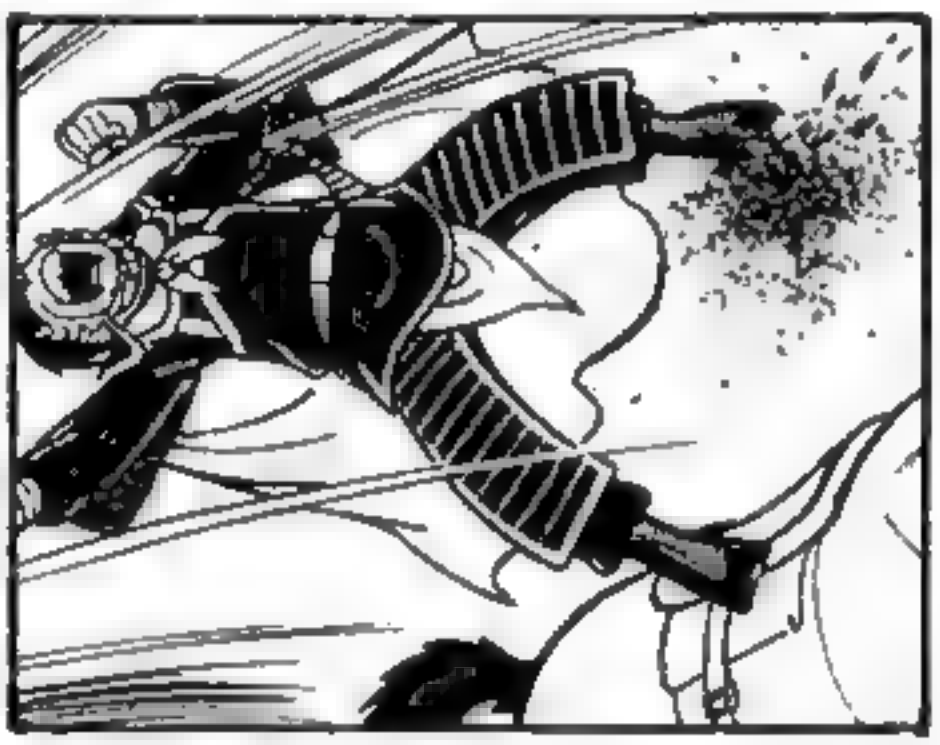
MEN, LET US SHOW THEM WHOSE ARMY THEY DARE TO FIGHT!

LU BU'S
BRAWN
AND CAO CAO'S
BRAINS. THE
SHOWDOWN
BETWEEN THESE TWO
POWERHOUSES WAS
FINALLY TO BEGIN.



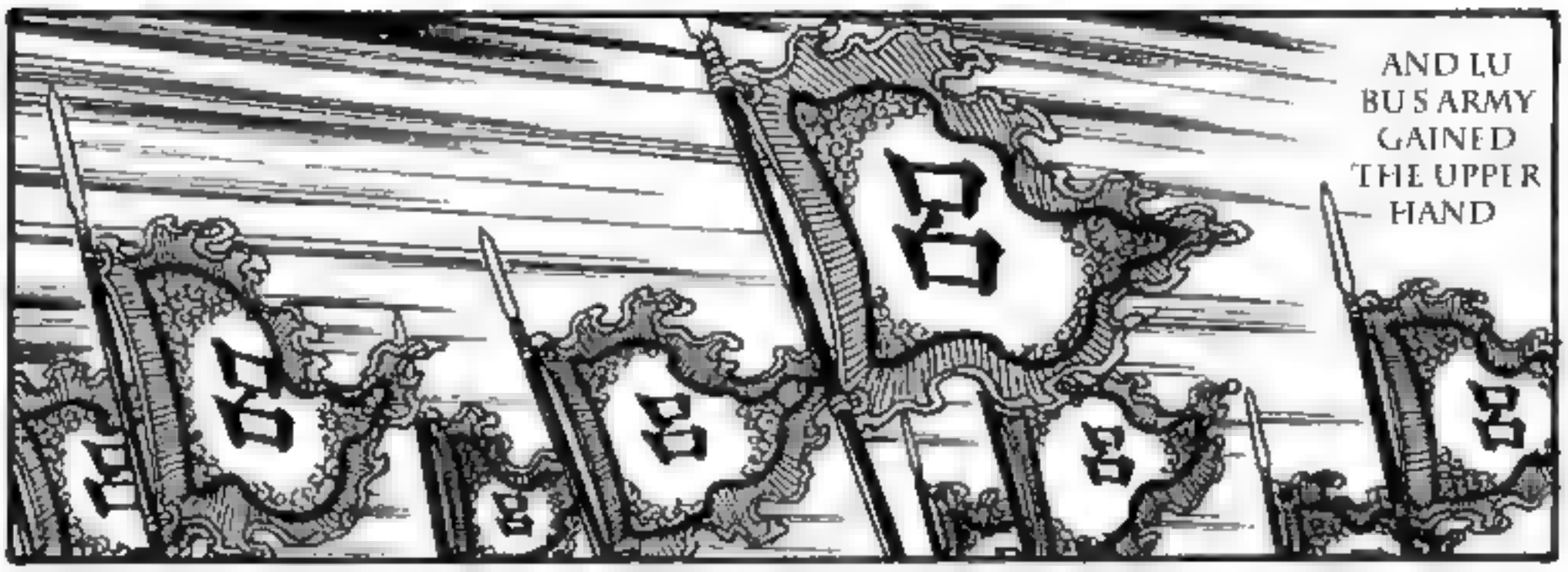
*THE FLAGS READ 'LU (呂)' FOR LU BU AND 'CAO (曹)' FOR CAO CAO

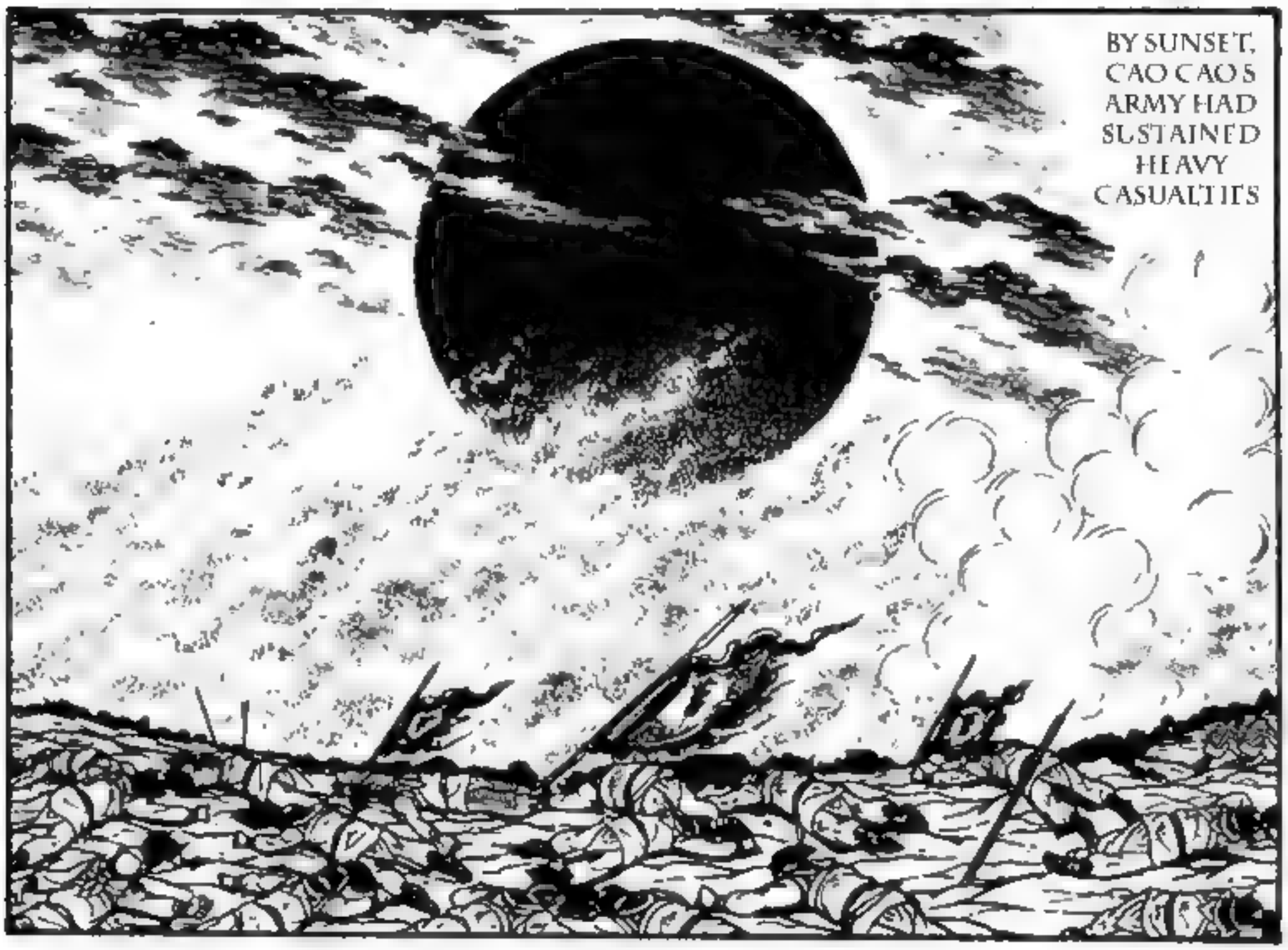




AS EXPECTED, LU BU'S MIGHT WAS UNMATCHED IN THE BATTLEFIELD

CAO CAO'S SOLDIERS PALED AT THE SIGHT AT LU BU'S FEROCITY.


AND LU BU'S ARMY GAINED THE UPPER HAND


BY SUNSET, CAO CAO'S ARMY HAD SUSTAINED HEAVY CASUALTIES

MY LORD!

IT WOULD BE BEST TO RETREAT AND REGROUP OUR FORCES BEFORE ATTACKING AGAIN.

I REGRET TO INFORM MY LORD THAT THE SOLDIERS ARE BEGINNING TO FLEE. WE ARE MERELY FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE.

PULL BACK!

RETREAT!

ALRIGHT, I SHALL DO AS YOU SAY.

THAT'S CAO CAO RUNNING AWAY OVER THERE!

AFTER HIM! WE'LL BE GREATLY REWARDED IF WE TAKE HIS HEAD!

MY LORD, PLEASE LEAVE THEM TO ME, DIAN WEI.

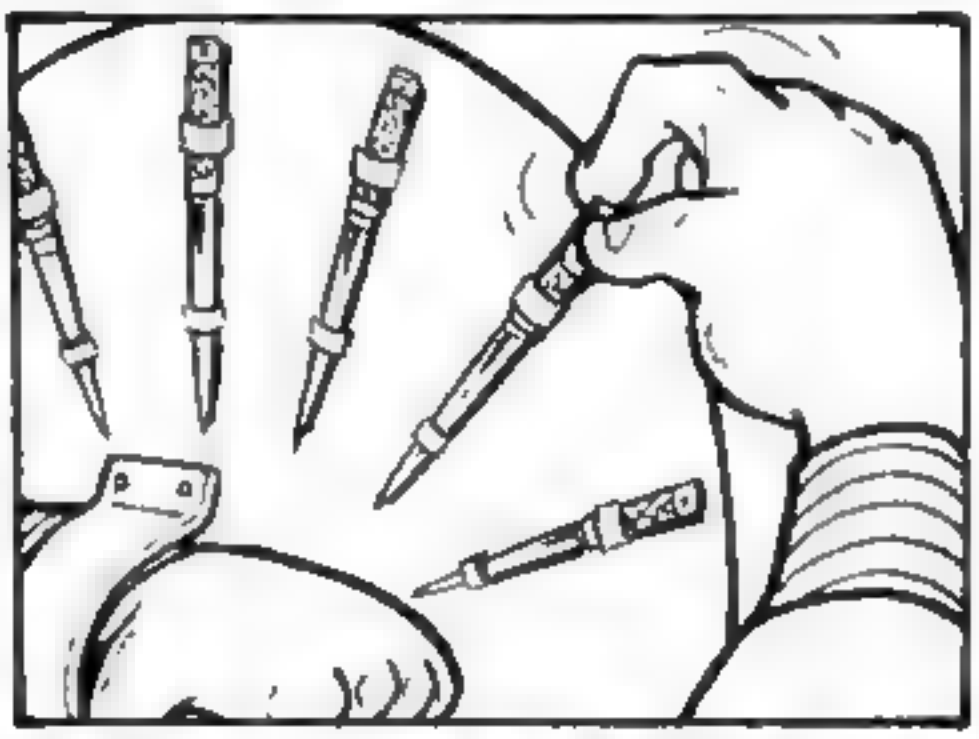
PERSIS-TENT LITTLE THINGS...!

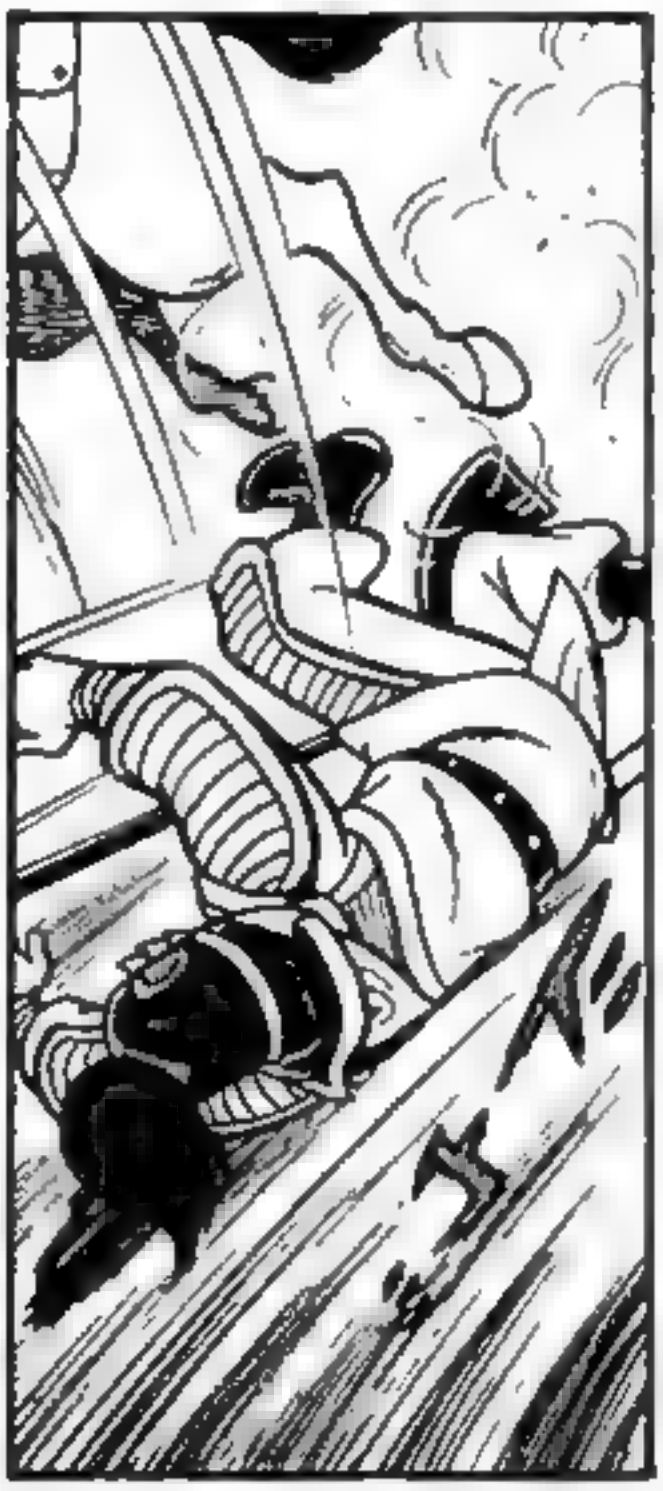
CALL OUT WHEN THE ENEMIES ARE WITHIN 10 PACES.

YES, GENE-RAL.

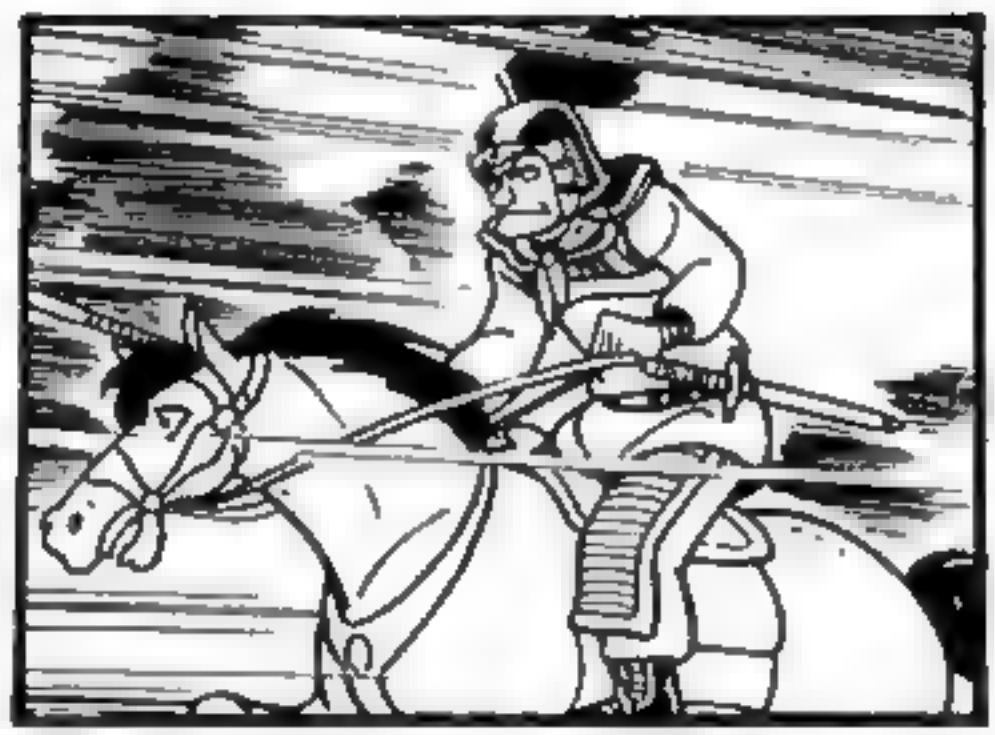
ヒヒヒ

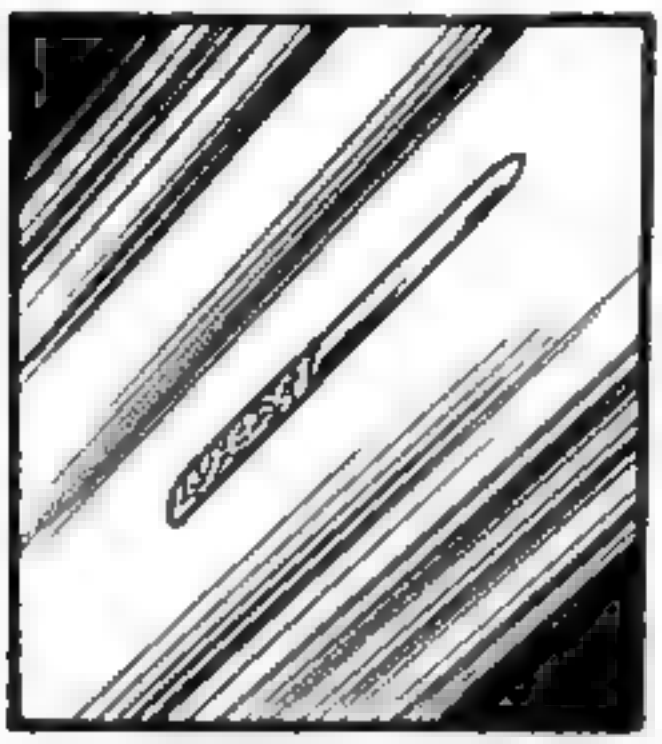
10 PACES!

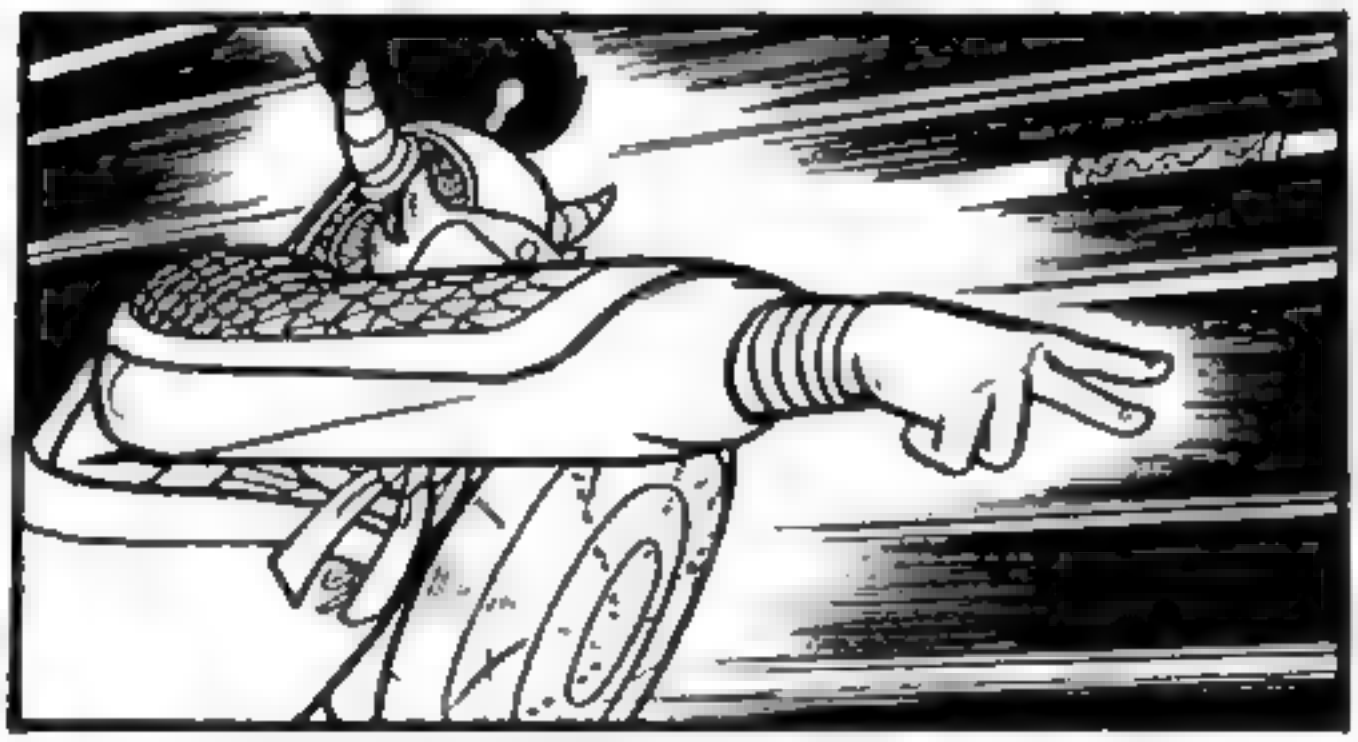


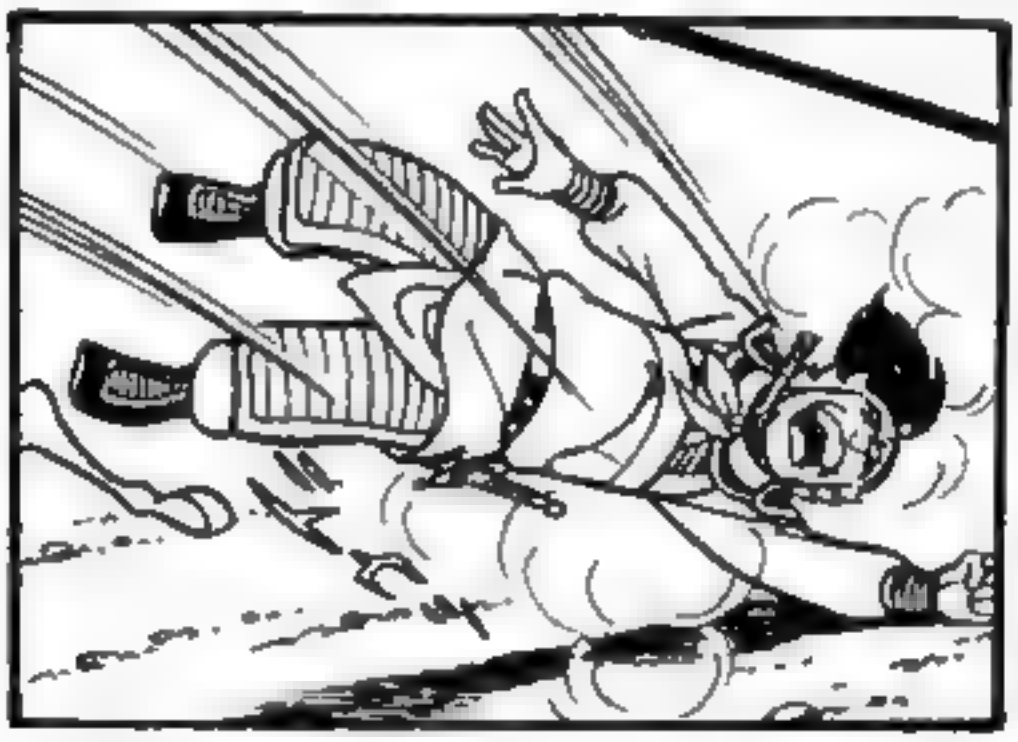


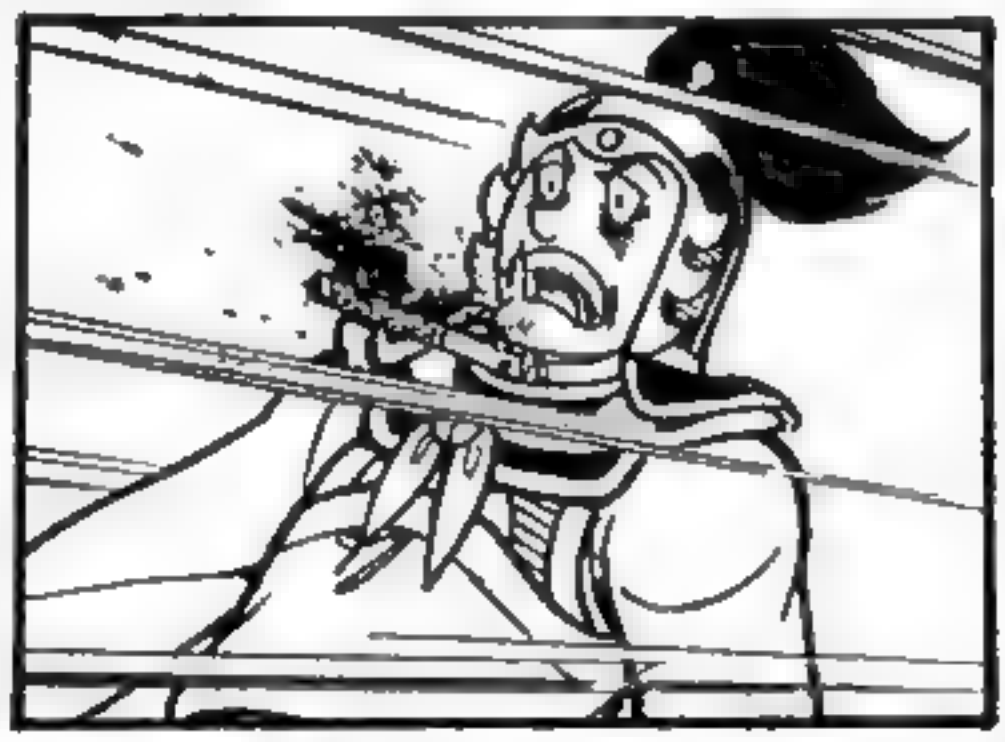
10 PACES!



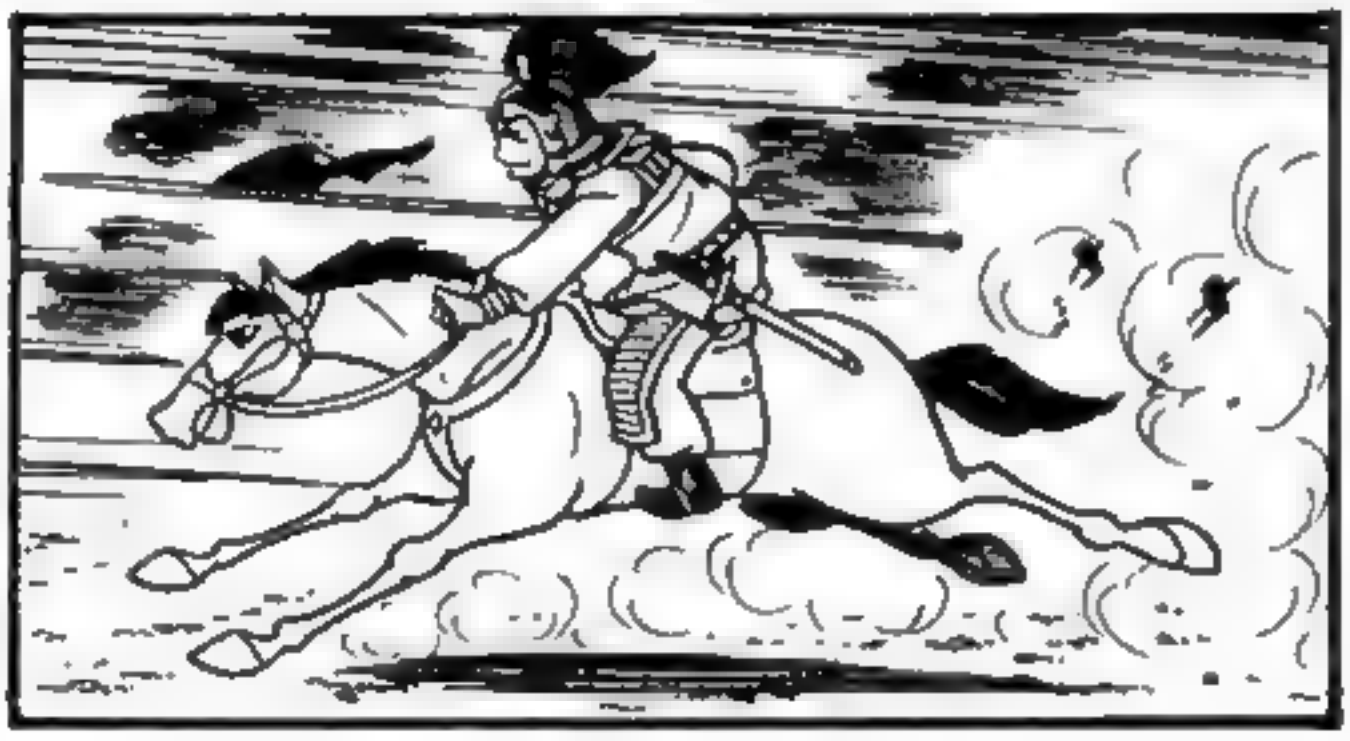


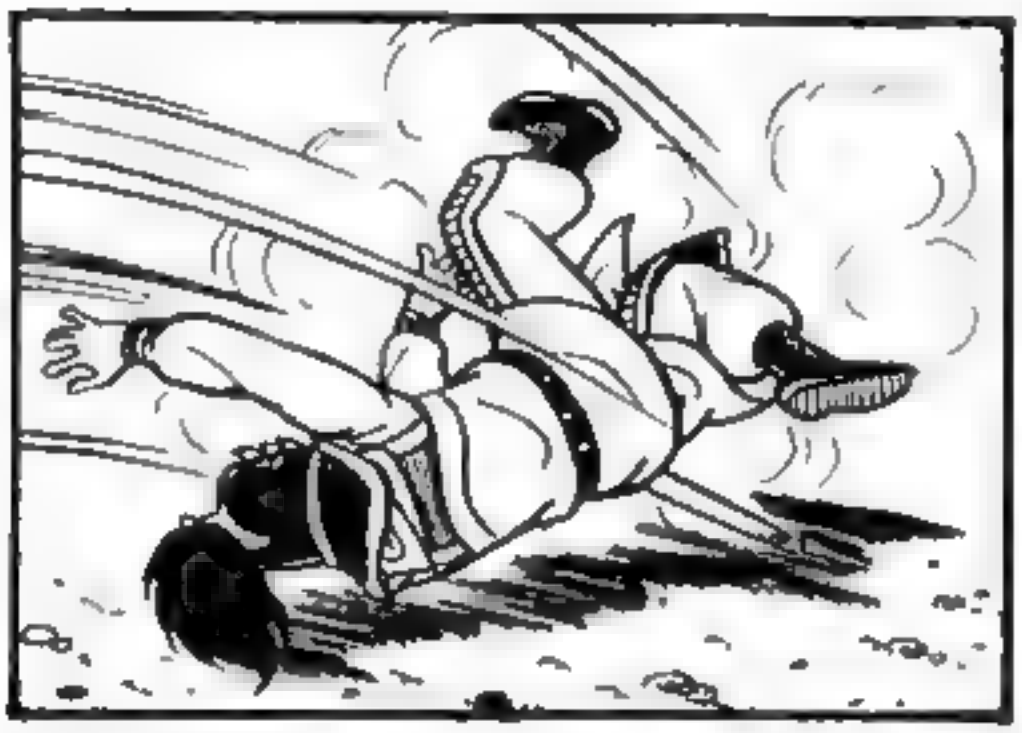






10
PACES!





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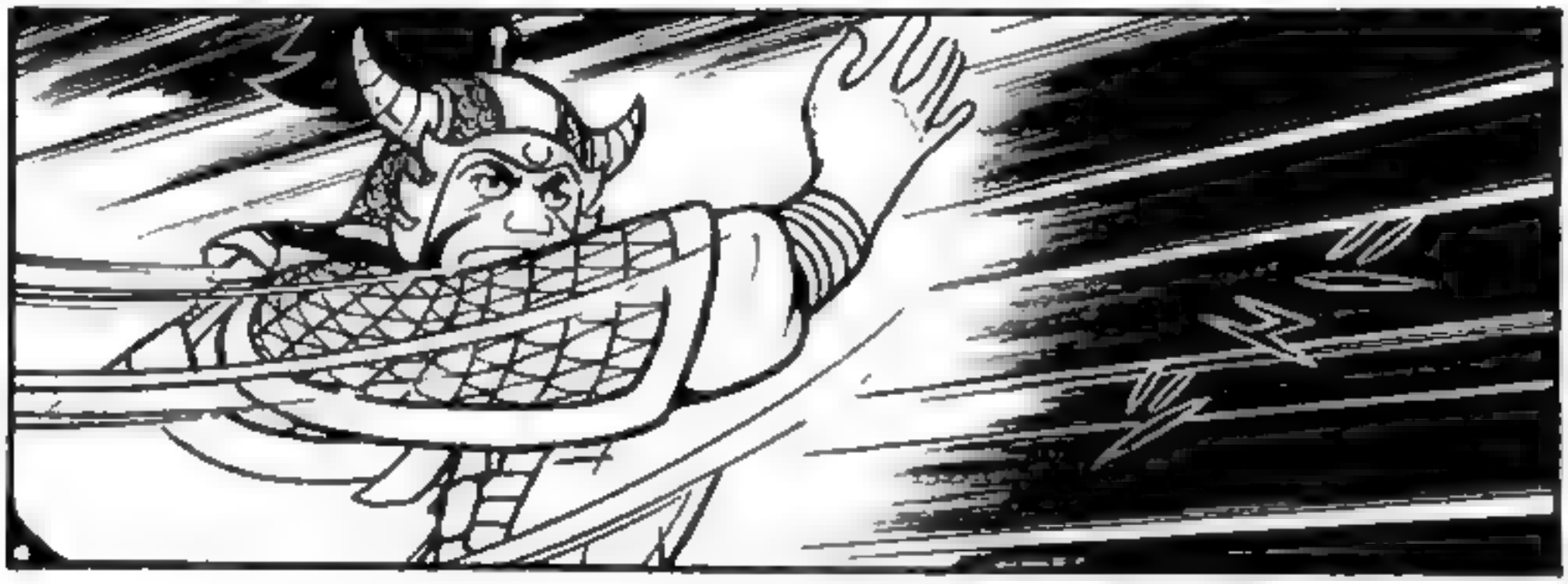
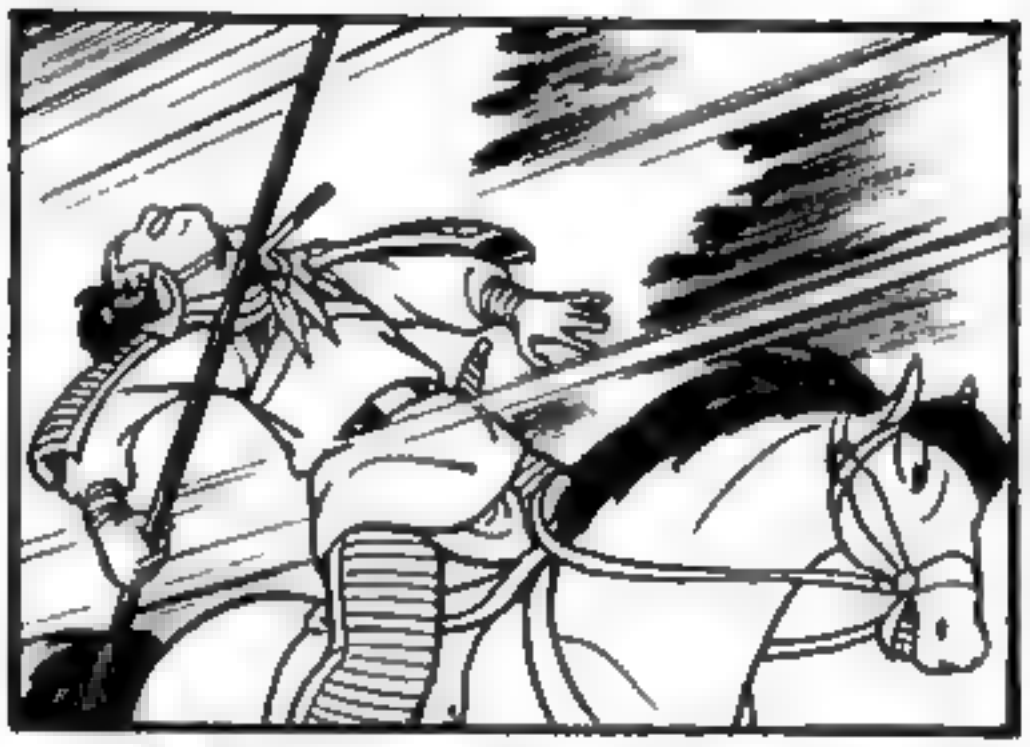
PACES!

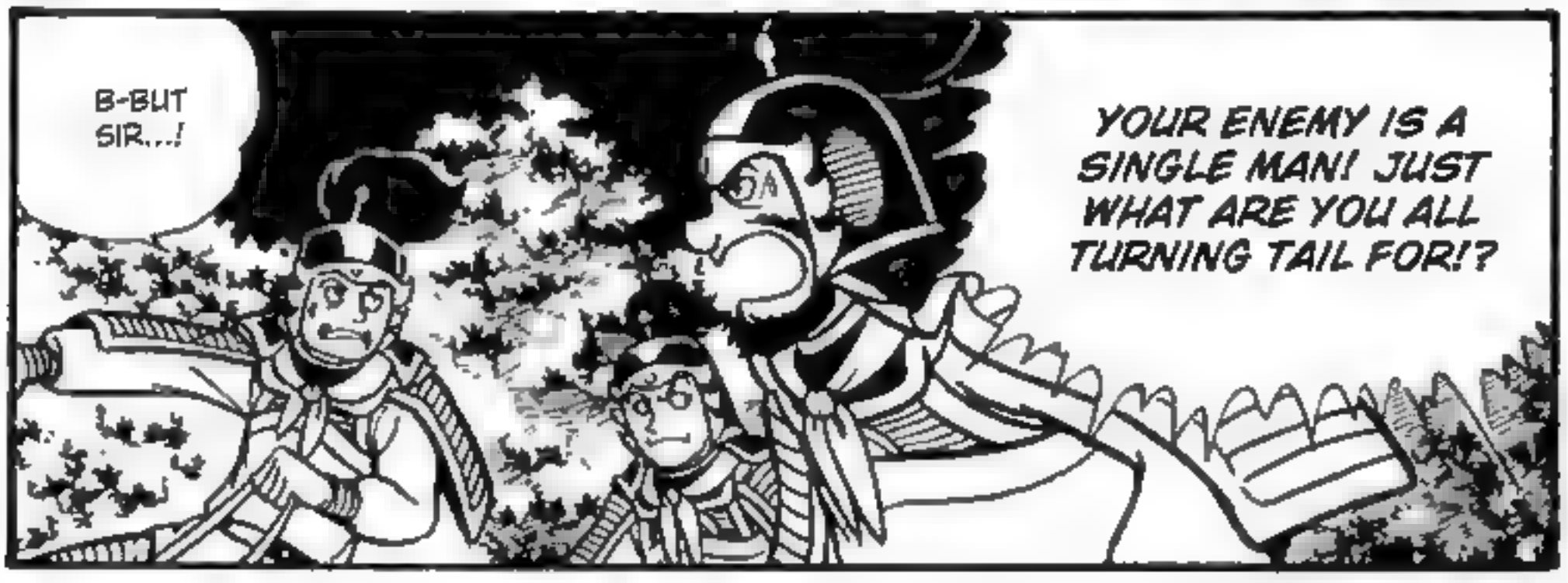




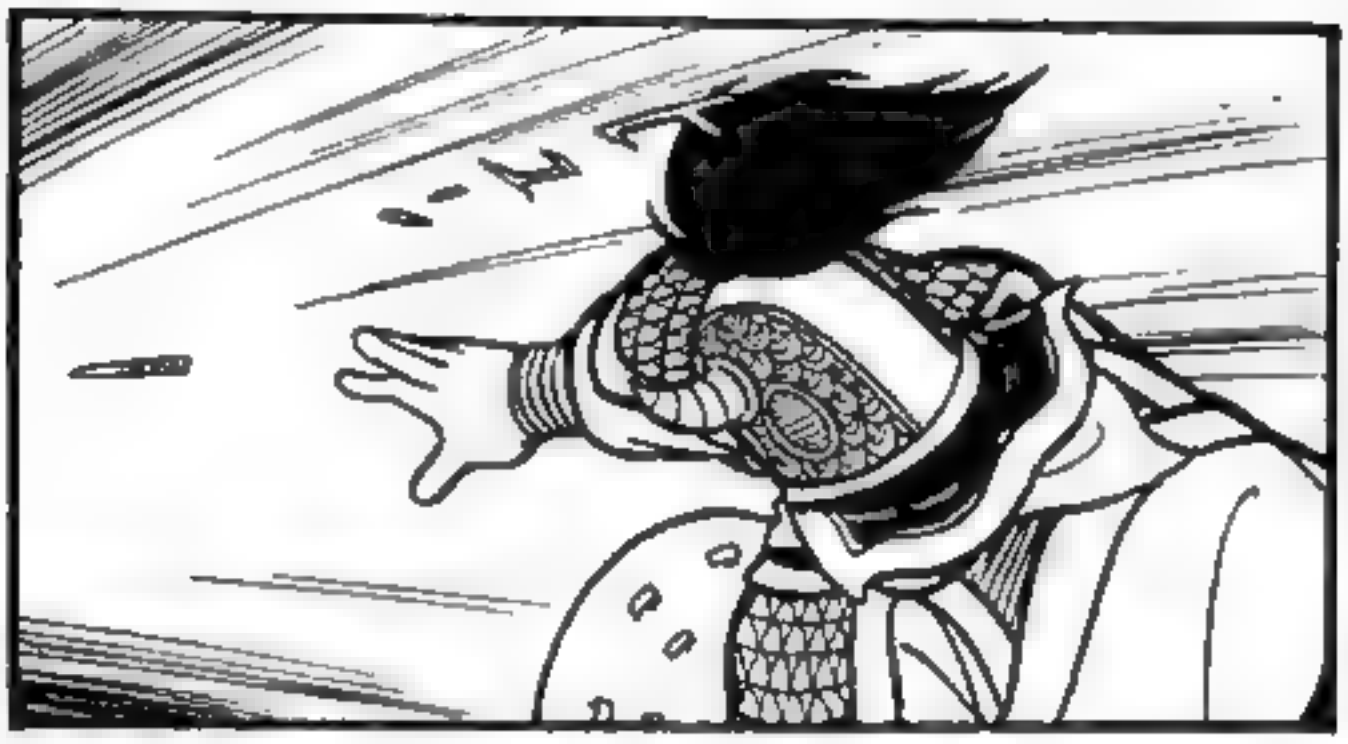
HEE!
HEE!

AND YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE CAO CAO ANYMORE. HE'S LONG ESCAPED BY NOW...

WE CAN'T MATCH HIM...!
THEY WERE ALL TAKEN DOWN BY A SINGLE MAN.


B-BUT SIR...!
YOUR ENEMY IS A SINGLE MAN! JUST WHAT ARE YOU ALL TURNING TAIL FOR!?

STRONG AS HE MAY BE, HE IS STILL JUST A MAN. I SHALL SHOW YOU COWARDS HOW IT'S DONE...!

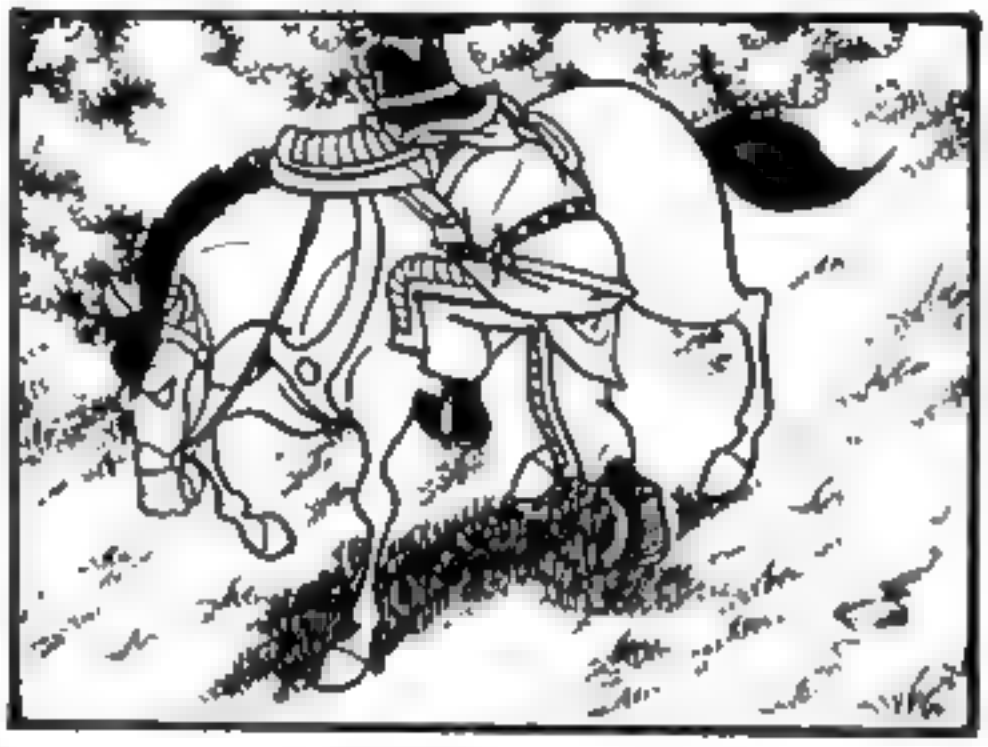


10 PACES!

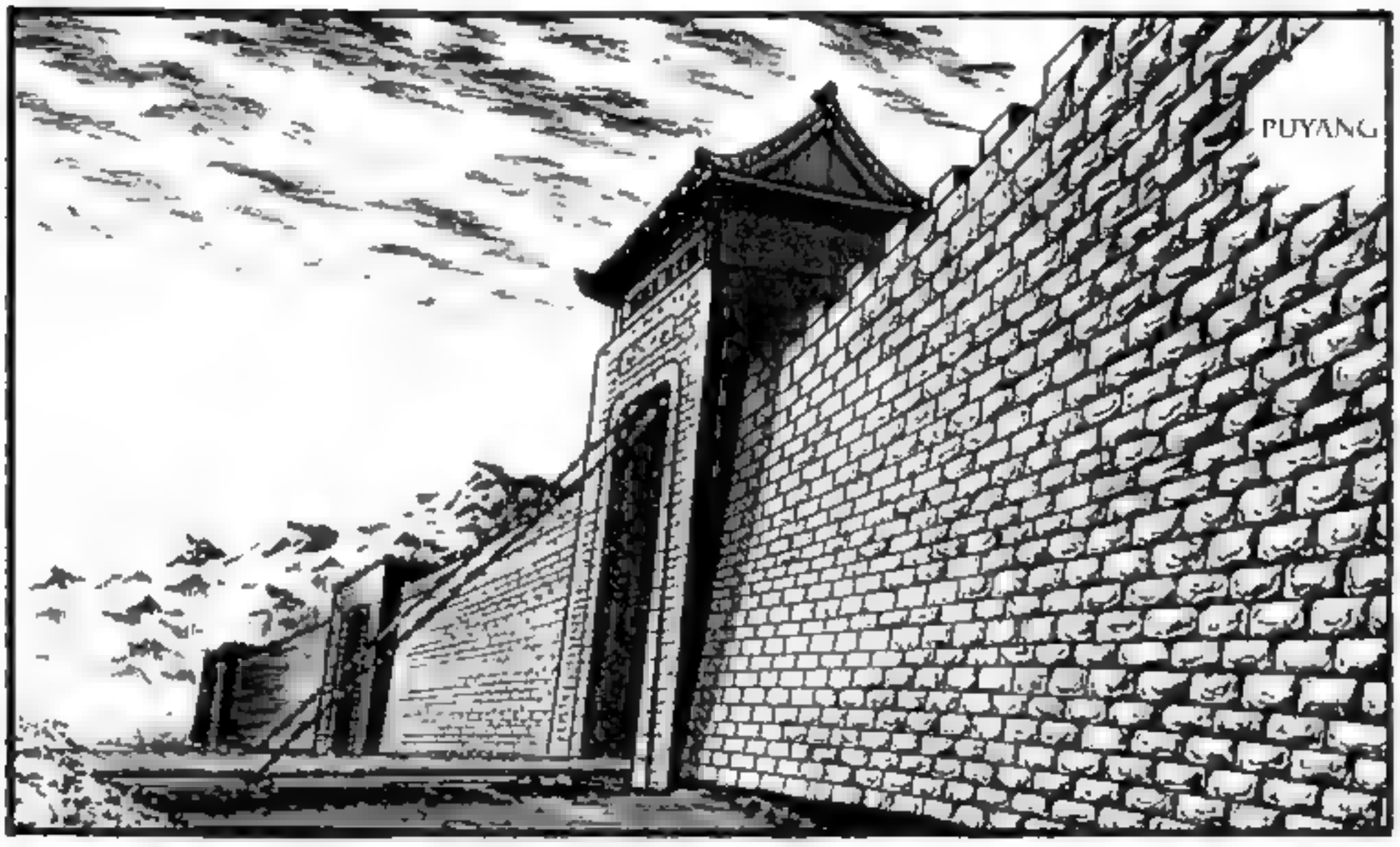
RETREAT!
PULL BACK!

GOOD. NOW LET US MEET BACK WITH OUR LORD.

GENERAL DIAN WEI, ALL THE ENEMIES HAVE FLED!



THE TWO TRAPS



IS SIR AWARE OF THE TIAN FAMILY HERE IN PUYANG?

AH YES, YOU MEAN THAT WEALTHY FAMILY?

HM?

GENERAL, THERE MAY BE A GOOD WAY TO ACHIEVE THAT.

FOR WHAT PURPOSE? TO FINANCE OUR ARMY?

THE GENERAL SHOULD CONTACT THE TIAN FAMILY.

THEN HOW ELSE CAN I USE THE TIAN FAMILY?

NO, OF COURSE NOT SIR. TO EXTORT MONEY FROM THE RICH IN ONE'S OWN TERRITORY IS NOTHING MORE THAN SHOOTING ONESELF IN THE FOOT.

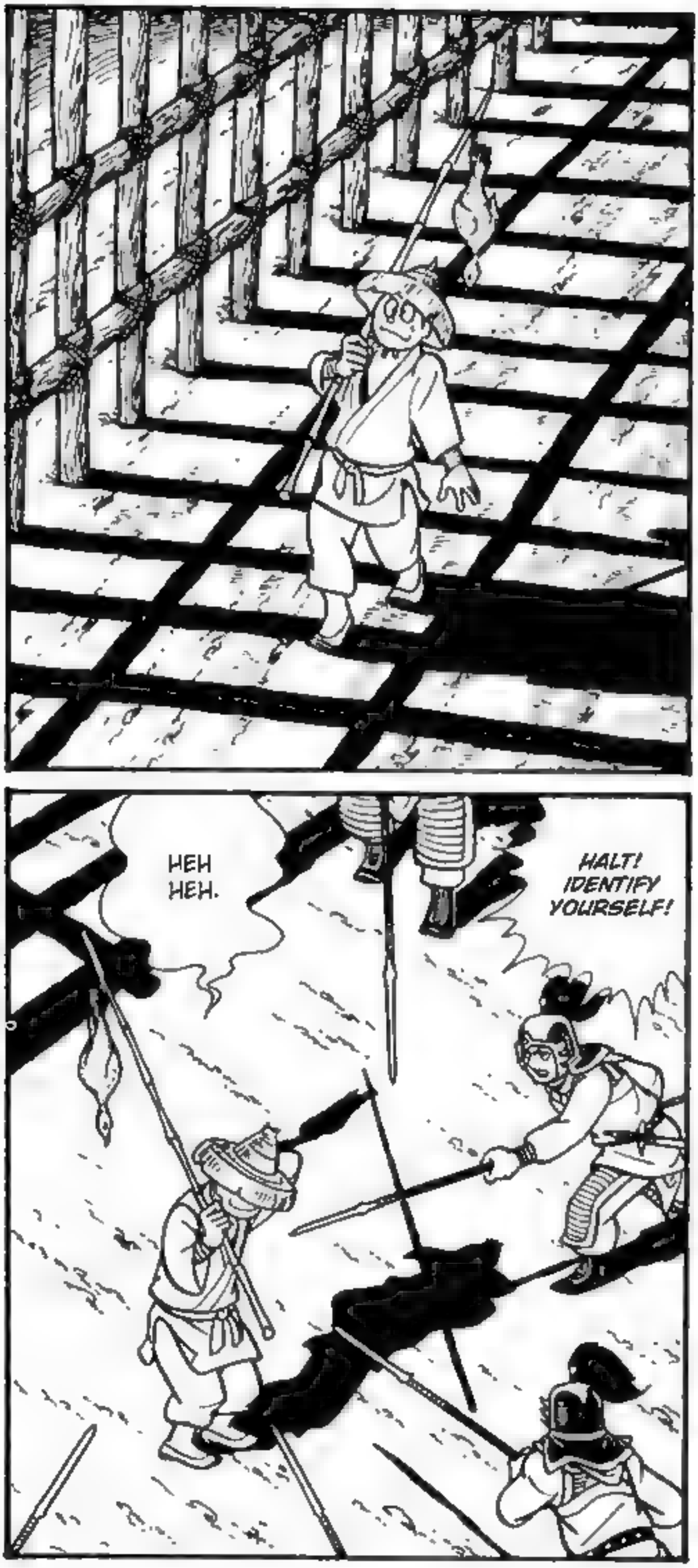
TO KILL CAO CAO, OF COURSE.

WHISPER WHISPER

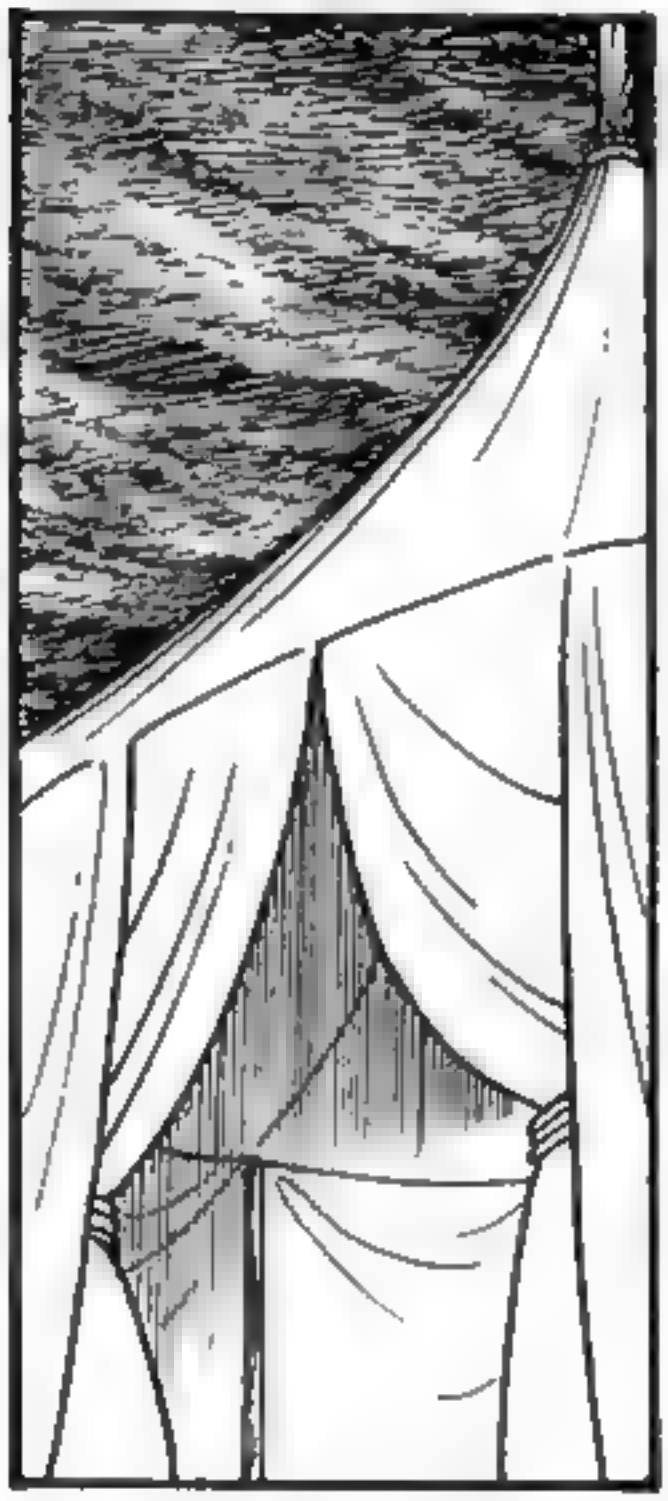
IF SIR WOULD LEND AN EAR TO MY PLAN...

YES, SIR.

ALRIGHT THEN, I SHALL LEAVE IT TO YOU.


HEH
HEH.
HALT!
IDENTIFY
YOURSELF!

JUS' WANNA PRESENT THE GEN'RAL WITH A NICE CHIKIN'.



HE MAY BE A SPY. LET'S TAKE HIM IN.
HE'S SUSPICIOUS FOR SURE.
HEE HEE HEE

YES, AND I BELIEVE HE IS NO ORDINARY PEASANT.
WHAT? A SUS-PICIOUS MAN IN OUR CAMPS?

ALRIGHT, I SHALL SEE TO HIM THEN.
YES, MY LORD. HE WAS FOUND LURKING WITHIN OUR CAMPGROUNDS ON THE PRETENSE THAT HE WISHED TO GIVE SIR THIS ROAST CHICKEN.
THIS IS THE FELLOW?

WHAT!?

I AM A SECRET EMISSARY, SIR.

TELL ME THE TRUTH, WHO ARE YOU?

ALRIGHT, YOU MEN ARE DISMISSED.

IF SIR WOULD BE SO KIND ENOUGH TO CLEAR THE FOOTSOLDIERS, I HAVE AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO DELIVER TO SIR.

THANK YOU, SIR.

ON THE LETTER THAT CAO CAO RECEIVED WAS A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF HOW LU BU WAS MISTREATING THE CITIZENS OF PUYANG.

TIAN? THAT TREMENDOUSLY WEALTHY FAMILY?

IT IS A SECRET MESSAGE FROM THE TIAN FAMILY.

WHAT DO THE CONTENTS SAY, MY LORD?

HMM...

CAN THE LETTER BE TRUSTED?

ACCORDING TO THIS LETTER, IT SEEMS THAT LU BU HAS DEPARTED FOR LIYANG, LEAVING ONLY GENERAL GAO SHUN AND A SMALL DEFENSE FORCE.

AN INTEREST-ING LETTER INDEED...

I CANNOT SAY FOR SURE BUT THE LETTER GOES ON TO SAY THAT THE TIAN FAMILY WILL INCITE A REBELLION TONIGHT AND OPEN THE GATES FOR OUR TROOPS.

PREPARE THE TROOPS TO ATTACK!

I AM WELL AWARE OF THAT, WHICH IS WHY I WILL SPLIT MY ARMY INTO 3 GROUPS AND SEND ONLY 1 GROUP INTO THE CASTLE.

MY LORD, IT MAY BE BEST TO PROCEED WITH CAUTION.

IT IS TIME TO CLEAR THE SHAME OF OUR PREVIOUS DEFEAT.

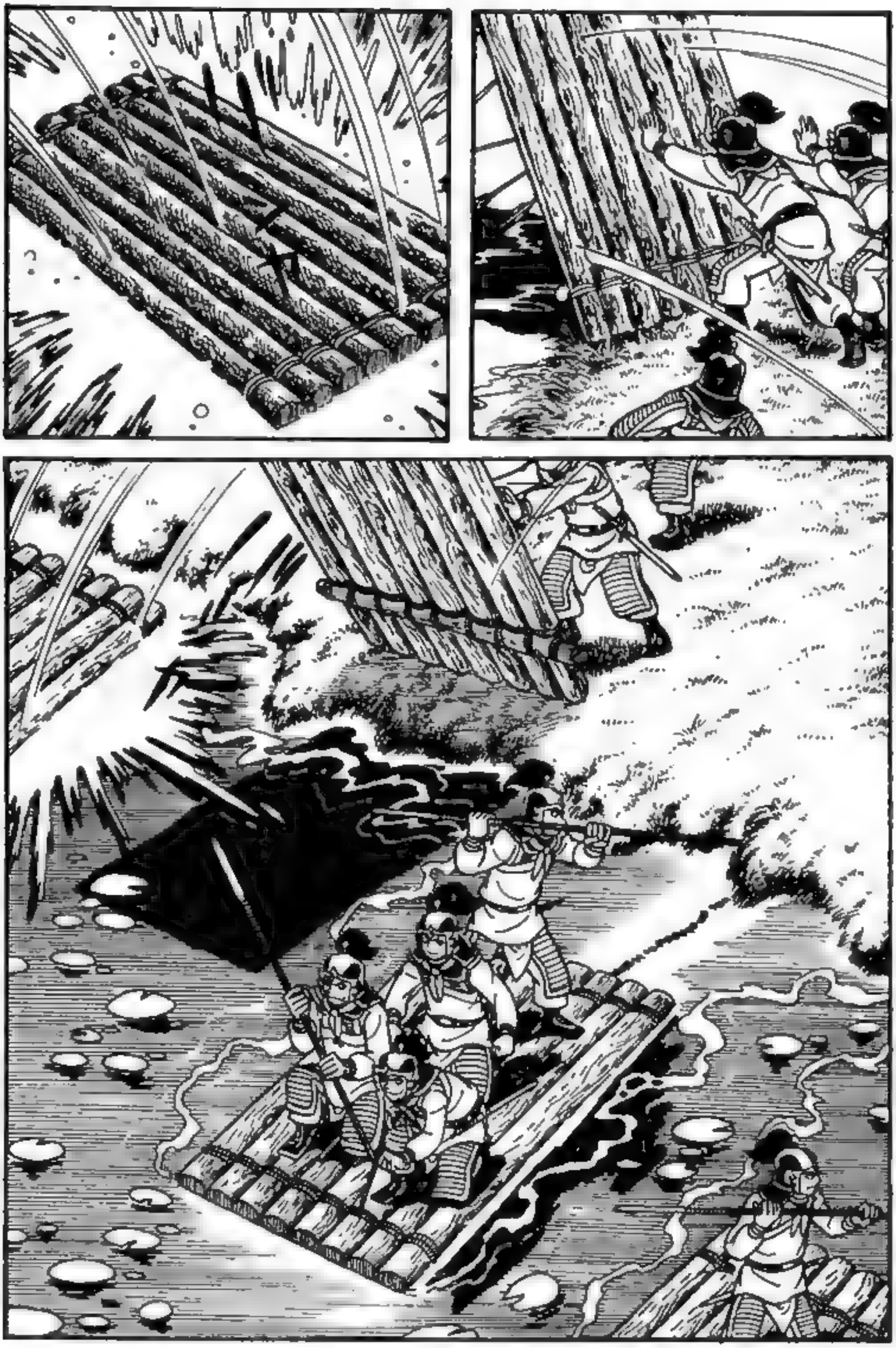
ONCE WE CONFIRM THAT THE CONTENTS OF THIS LETTER ARE TRUE, THE REMAINING 2 GROUPS WILL CHARGE IN AS WELL.

MOBILIZE THE TROOPS!

FUYANG

FIRST UNIT, COMMENCE THE SIEGE!

THE SIGNAL THAT THEY WILL GIVE IS A WHITE FLAG ABOVE THE GATES READING "JUSTICE."



YES, IT DOES APPEAR THAT WAY...

THERE DOES SEEM TO BE LESS ENEMY ARCHERS THAN NORMAL, MY LORD.

AH!

AH!

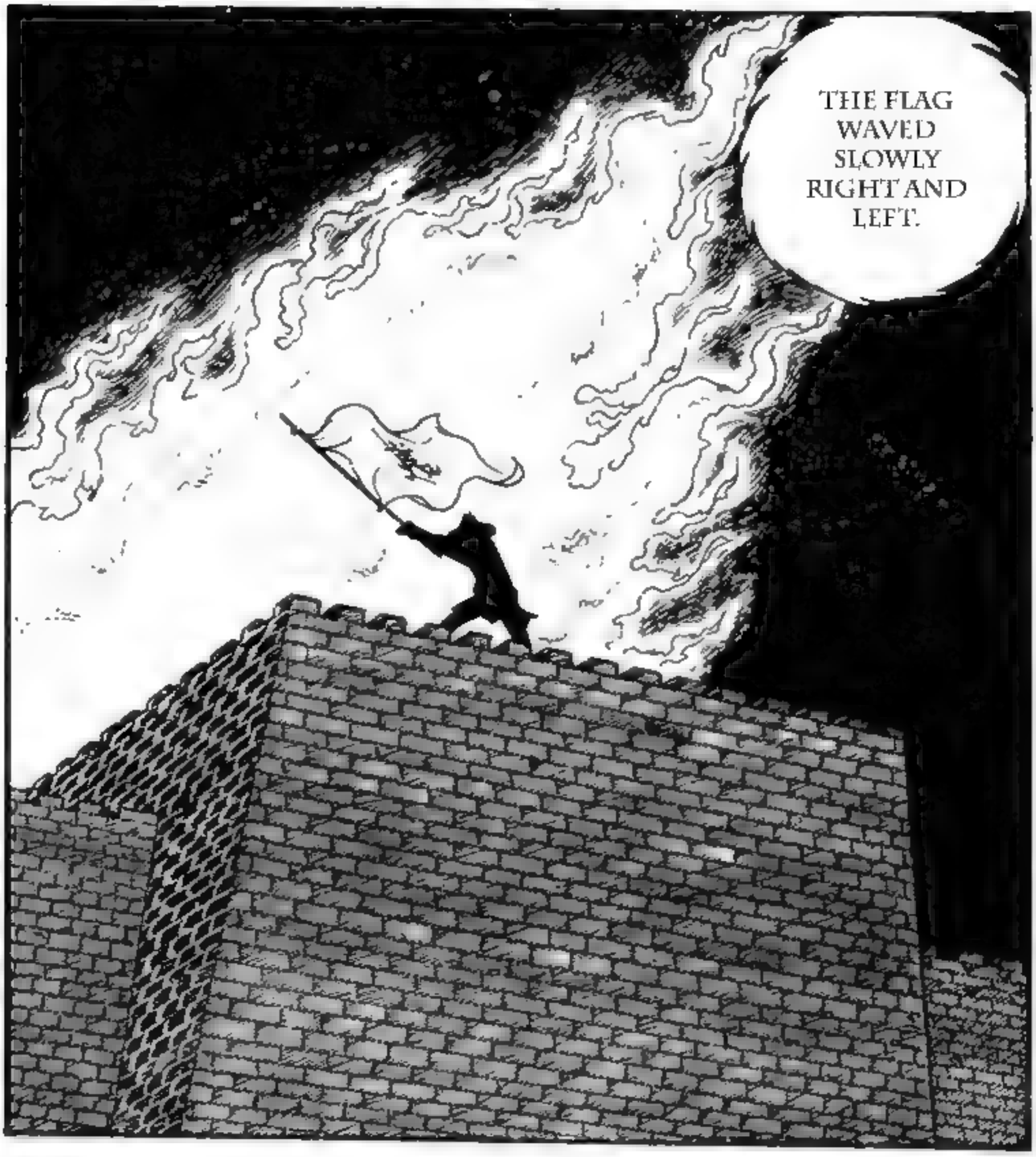
OHH!

SOMEONE HAS STARTED A FIRE WITHIN THE CASTLE!

AND THE SIGNAL FLAG...!

THE FLAG READING "JUSTICE!"

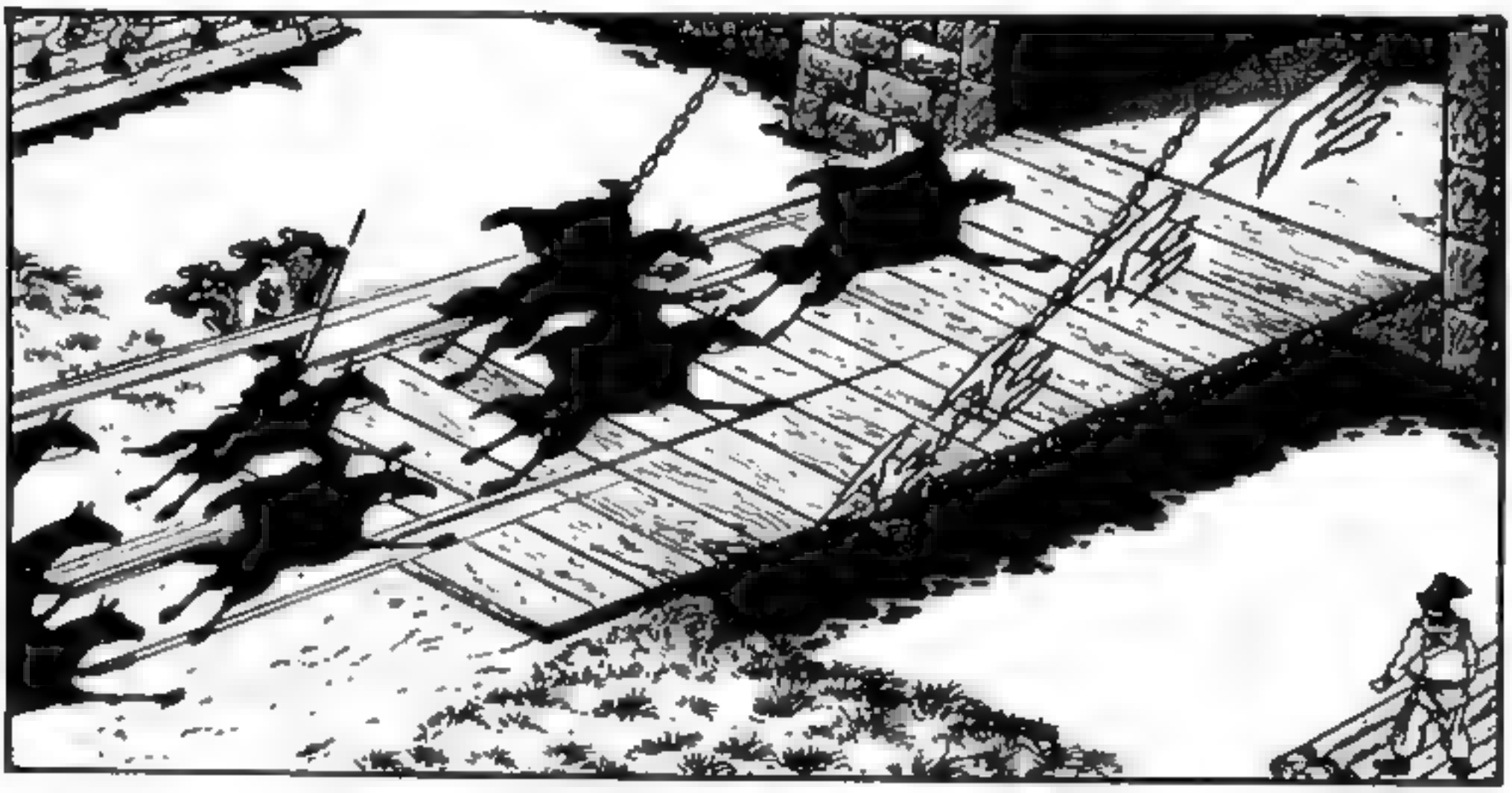
義


THE FLAG WAVED SLOWLY RIGHT AND LEFT.

THE GATES ARE OPENING...!

THE TIAN FAMILY MUST HAVE BEEN TELLING THE TRUTH!

LET US CHARGE IN AT ONCE AND RECLAIM PUYANG!



AHH!

AHH!

MY LORD! WE ARE BEING PELTED BY ROCKS!

WHAT IS IT!?

AHH!

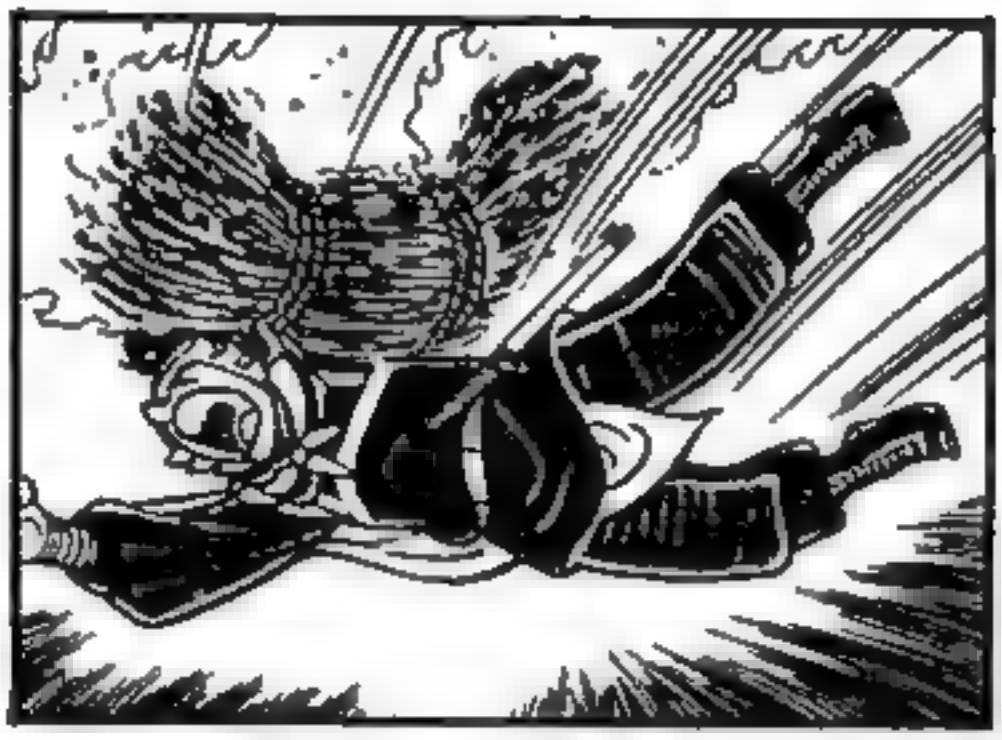
AGHH!

COULD I HAVE FALLEN INTO A TRAP...?

YES, IT'S TRUE! THIS IS AN ENEMY TRAP!

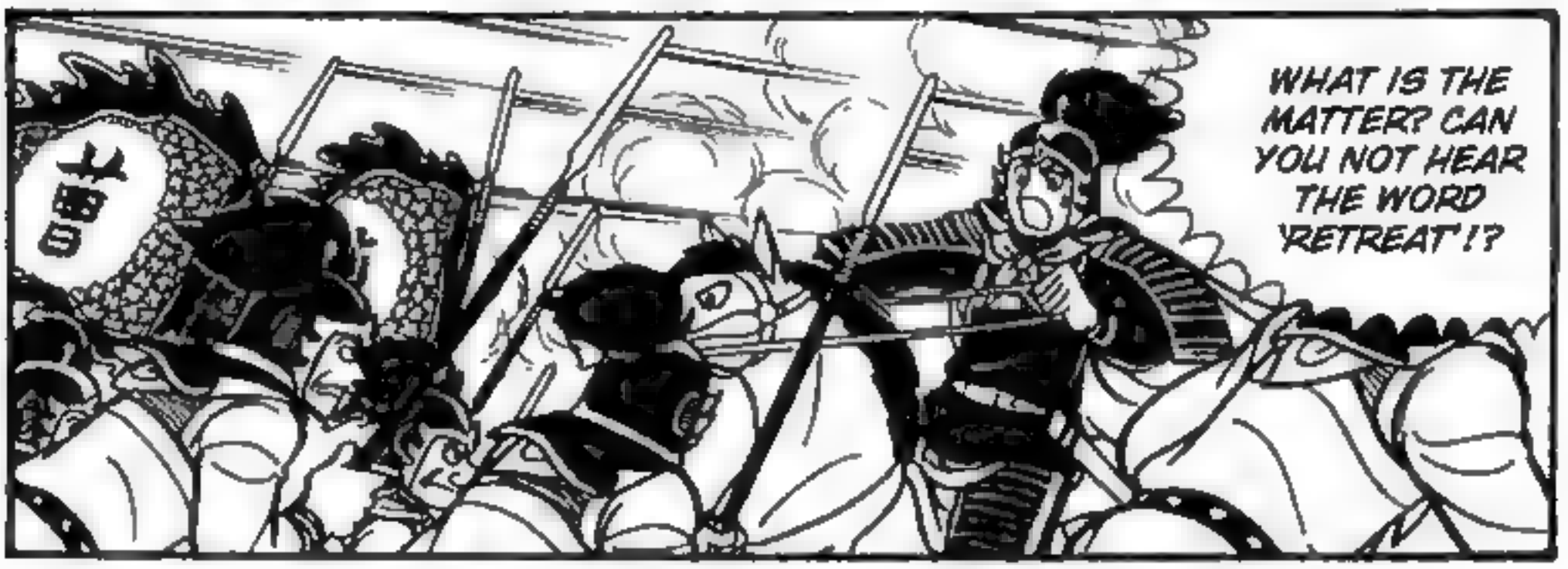
AGHH!

AAHH!



AGHHH!

RETREAT!
RETREAT!
RETREAT!


WHAT IS THE MATTER? CAN YOU NOT HEAR THE WORD 'RETREAT'!?

IT WOULD BE BEST TO FIND ANOTHER GATE TO ESCAPE THROUGH FOR NOW, MY LORD

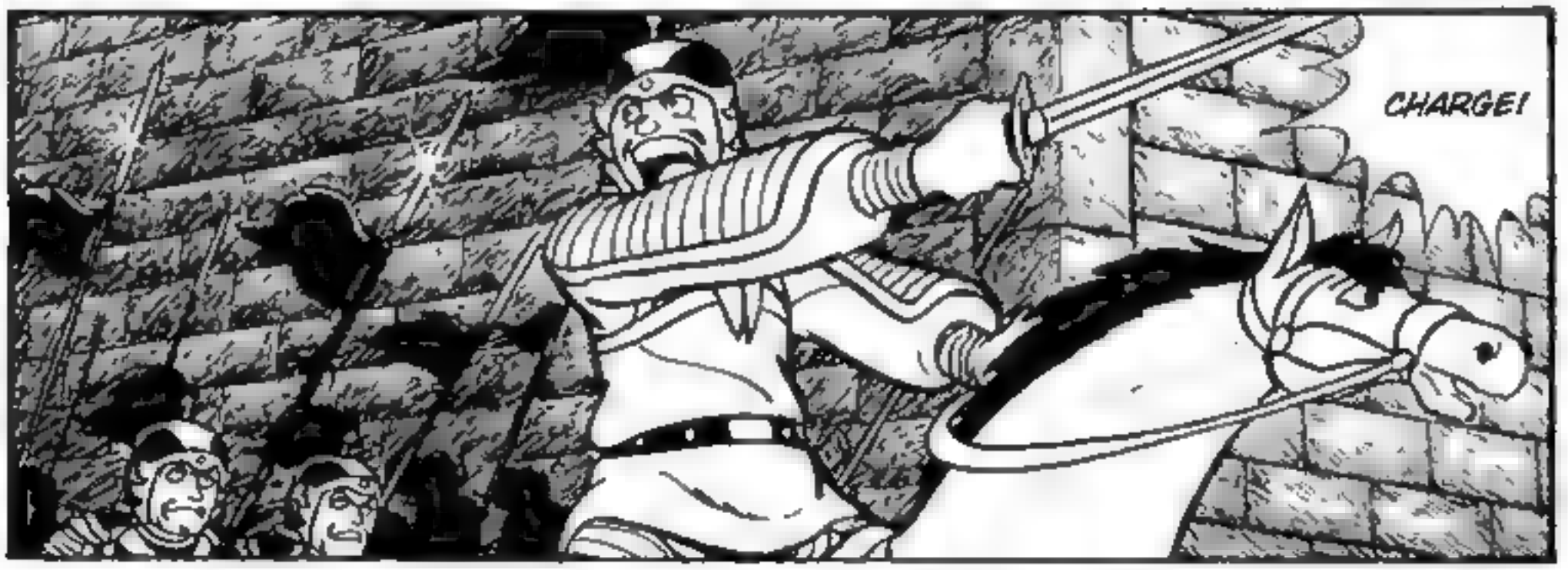
YES.

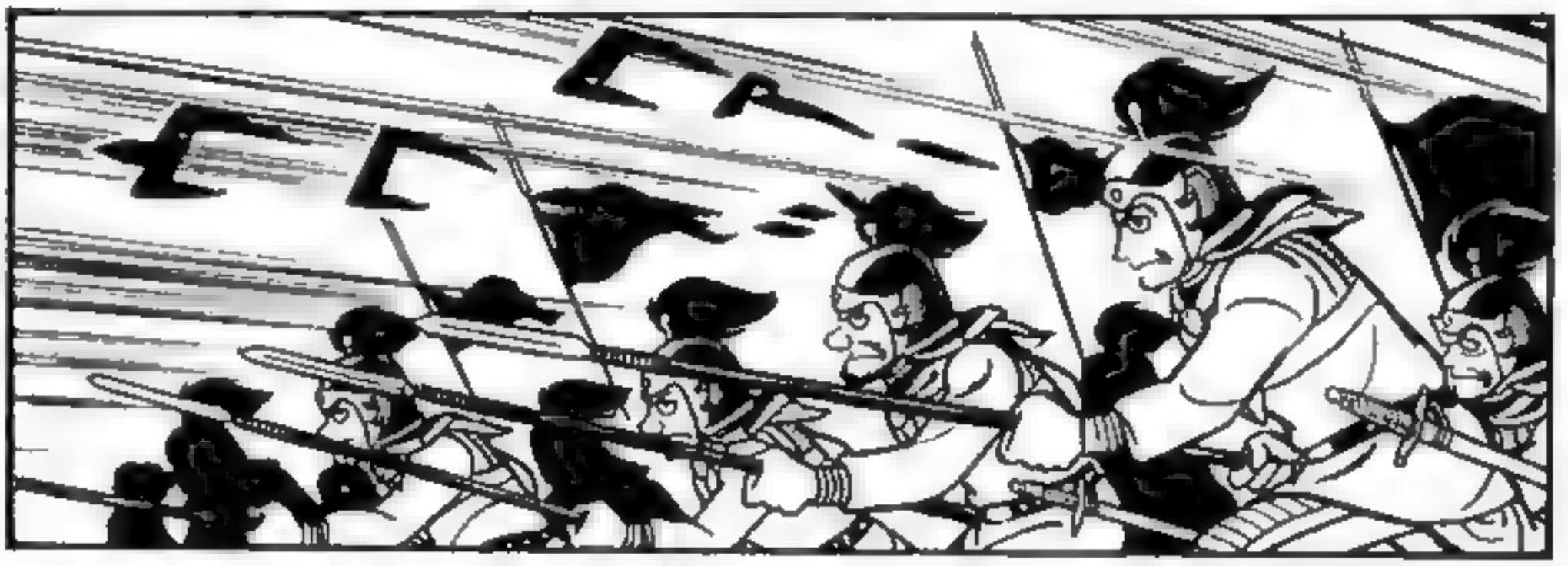
MY LORD, I'M AFRAID THAT DUE TO SOLDIERS STILL CHARGING INTO PUYANG FROM ALL THE WAY BACK OUTSIDE THE CASTLE, THE ORDER TO RETREAT ISN'T BEING RELAYED!

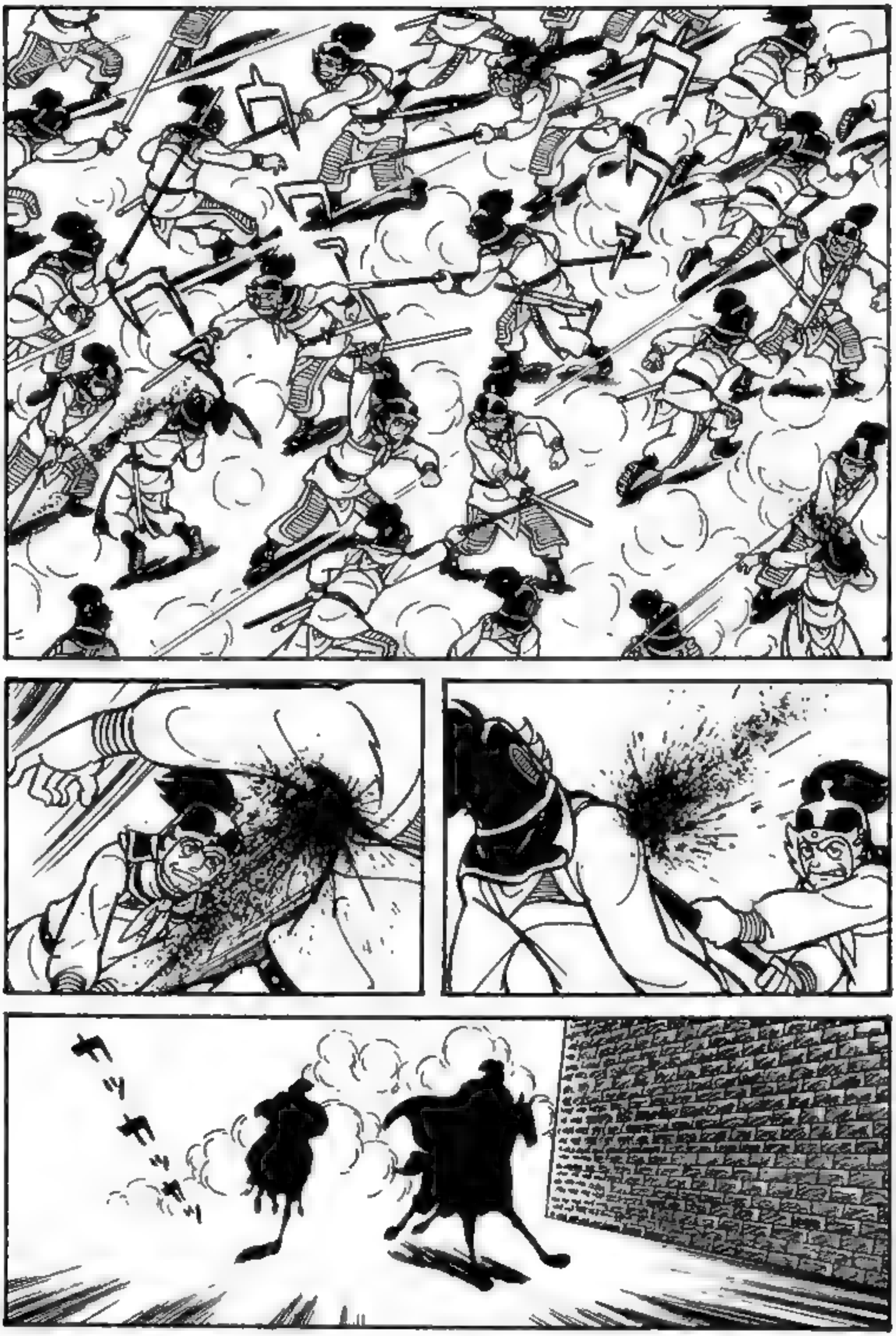
GIVE THE SIGNAL TO CHARGE!

HAHAHA! THEY'VE BEEN CAUGHT IN OUR TRAP COMPLETELY!

THAT'S THE SIGNAL TO CHARGE!


CHARGE!





UGH!

AH!

MY LORD, LET US HEAD TOWARDS THE EASTERN GATES.

IT SEEMS THEY'VE BLOCKED THIS GATE AS WELL.

AGHH!

WE CANNOT HOPE TO ESCAPE THROUGH HERE!

NO, MY LORD. WE HAVE NO CHOICE *BUT* TO EXIT THROUGH THESE GATES.

E LAI*, I'M AFRAID WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TURN BACK.

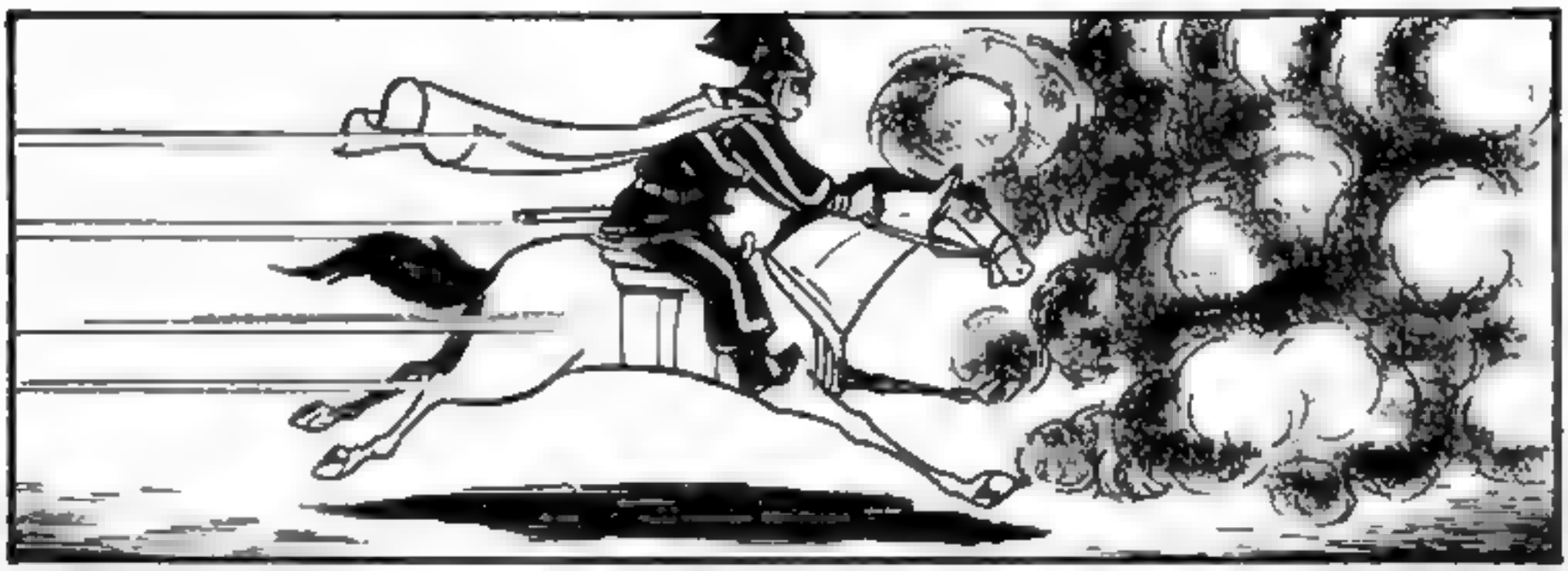
MNN...

IT WOULD BE SAFER THAN TO TURN BACK, SIR.

YOU MEAN TO SERI-OUSLY JUMP THROUGH THESE FLAMES!?

*E LAI WAS A POWERFUL GENERAL OF KING ZHOU, THE LAST KING OF SHANG DYNASTY CAO CAO GAVE THIS NICKNAME TO SAY THAT DIAN WEI IS CAO CAO'S E LAI

YES.
I SHALL HEAD IN FIRST. PLEASE FOLLOW AFTER ME, MY LORD.



AGHHH!!!

H-HELP!
SOMEONE, HELP!

HM?

MNN...

AH, MY LORD! IT IS GOOD TO SEE THAT SIR HAS REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS.

MY LORD HAS SUSTAINED SOME MINOR BURNS BUT YES.

SO I'VE SURVIVED, HAVE I?

I CANNOT THANK YOU ENOUGH.

AS LONG AS MY LORD IS ALIVE, WE ARE ALL READY TO FIGHT ANYTIME.

YES, MY LORD.

I THOUGHT I HAD REACHED THE END OF MY LIFE BACK IN THAT FIRE... WAS IT YOU WHO SAVED MY LIFE, E LAI?

CALL IN XIAHOU YUAN.

THE HEAVENS HAVE NOT ABANDONED ME JUST YET.

YES, COME CLOSER.

YOU CALLED, MY LORD?

WHY DOES SIR TASK ME WITH SUCH AN OMINOUS MATTER?

WORRY NOT, IT IS MERELY FOR A TRAP.

FUNERAL ...?

I WANT YOU TO PREPARE FOR MY FUNERAL.

I WANT THE REST OF YOU GENTLEMEN TO SPREAD THE RUMOR THAT CAO CAO DIED DURING LAST NIGHT'S BATTLE.

HEARING THAT, LU BU WILL DEFINITELY COME OUT FROM PUYANG TO ATTACK MY REMAINING FORCES. THAT IS PRECISELY WHEN WE WILL AMBUSH HIM.

IT SEEMS THAT CAO CAO HAS DIED IN THE FIRE DURING LAST NIGHT'S ATTACK.

WHAT!?

AND WHAT WOULD THAT BE?

HAS THE GENERAL HEARD OF THE LATEST RUMOR ON THE BATTLE-FIELD?

I SEE, SO CAO CAO HAS FINALLY DIED...

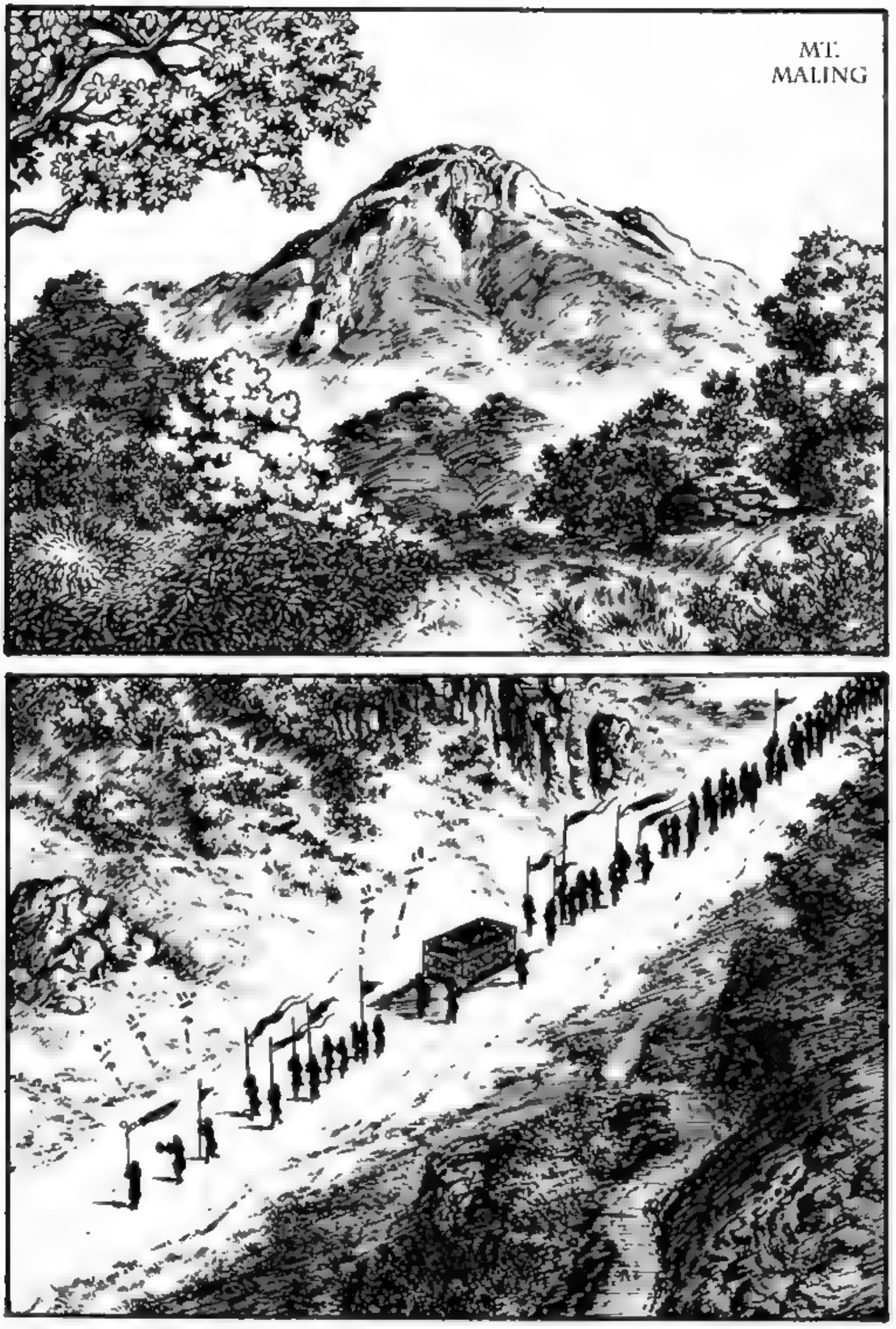
THERE HAVE BEEN SOME OF OUR OWN SOLDIERS WHO WITNESSED CAO CAO JUMPING INTO THE BURNING EASTERN GATES. I BELIEVE THAT THE RUMOR HAS A GOOD CHANCE OF BEING TRUE.

YANZHOU SHALL NOW BE MINE.

APPARENTLY, CAO CAO'S FUNERAL IS BEING HELD AT MT.MAL'NG TOMORROW, GENERAL.

YES, SIR.

GOOD, PREPARE OUR ARMY TO FINISH OFF THE REMAINING ENEMIES TOMORROW THEN.


MT.
MALING

YES, THAT APPEARS TO BE THE CASE.

SIR, THAT MUST BE CAO CAO'S COFFIN.

CHARGE!

GUH!

WHAT'S GOING ON!?

GENERAL, THERE ARE ENEMIES BEHIND!

WHAT!?

SIR, TO THE LEFT...!

DO NOT PANIC! FIGHT BACK!

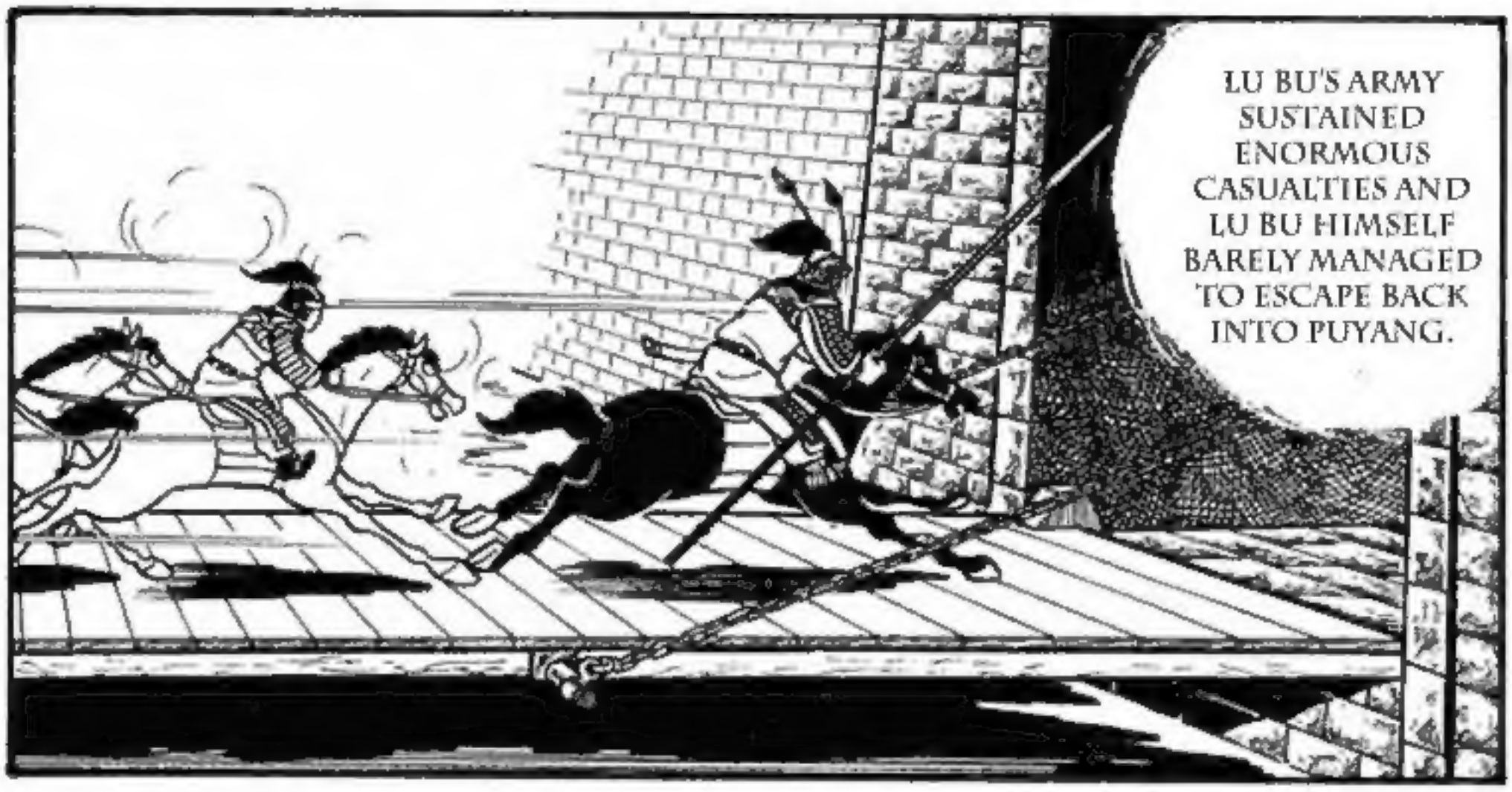
ENEMIES AT THE RIGHT AS WELL!

RETREAT!

I-IT WAS A TRAP...!

RETREAT!

CAO CAO'S SCHEME MET HUGE SUCCESS.


LU BU'S ARMY SUSTAINED ENORMOUS CASUALTIES AND LU BU HIMSELF BARELY MANAGED TO ESCAPE BACK INTO PUYANG.

TRANSLATED BY HOX

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8

横山 光輝

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Original 潮出版社 希望コミックス

Digital Distributor
eBOOK Initiative Japan Co.,Ltd.
〒101-0062　東京都千代田区神田駿河台 2-9-18
http://www.ebookjapan.jp